

Dear WISE Conference Participants,

The University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity (OMA&D) and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), are proud to celebrate and support the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women in Science & Engineering (WISE) Conference. The conference offers the opportunity for participants to be exposed to new information, and establish new networks with STEM faculty, peers, and industry.

This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference is being held virtually. The conference organizers have planned a wonderful conference that includes interactive panel sessions, keynote speakers, resources and a host of outstanding conversations designed to empower, encourage, and inspire your persistence to a STEM degree, graduate school, or career. The broad impact of your experience today will reach far beyond the sessions you attend. You will draw from first-hand experiences of trailblazers in STEM professions who are making an impact in their careers and communities.

We recognize achieving gender equity in STEM benefits the disciplines, industry, and society. While a gender gap continues to persist, the gap is shrinking because of programs like WISE. Those of you attending this conference will help to ensure the gap continues to narrow until gender equity in STEM has been achieved.

It is our hope that you will leave this conference inspired, empowered, and motivated to shape the STEM landscape of today and into the future. We welcome your contributions to the discussions, and your insights about how to implement more effective initiatives for recruiting, retaining, and graduating women in STEM. Best wishes for a productive conference.

Sincerely,



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Vice President / University Diversity Officer  
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