

## **Female STEM Groups Summary**

### **Association for Women in Science (AWIS)**

#### **WISE Institute**

The Association for Women in Science is the largest multidisciplinary science and technology organization for women in the United States. Women in science, technology, engineering and mathematic fields are welcome to join the local chapter at Penn State. AWIS is dedicated to fostering the careers of undergraduate, graduate and women professionals in science. Specifically, members are provided with opportunities to develop leadership skills and new relationships; to receive mentoring from professional women and men; and obtain scholarships and internships. In addition, AWIS organizes their annual professional conference "Symposium for Women in Science (SWIS)" and works in conjunction with the Eberly College of Science to host a stayover for prospective Penn State students. To learn more about this student group, please visit, <http://www.equity.psu.edu/wise/ug-awis.asp>.

### **Graduate Women in Science (GWIS)**

#### **WISE Institute**

GWIS originally started as fraternal organization (Sigma Delta Epsilon). It is the oldest women's organization at Penn State today! This interdisciplinary society of scientists has an active chapter right here at Penn State. The Nu Chapter of GWIS is dedicated to all of the goals set forth by GWIS National. The local chapter here at Penn State is primarily made up of women graduate students, post-docs, and faculty who are involved in technology, engineering, mathematics, and the physical, natural and social sciences. To learn more about this student group, please visit <http://www.equity.psu.edu/wise/grad.asp>.

### **Sigma Alpha, Sisters in Agriculture**

#### **College of Agricultural Sciences**

Sigma Alpha is a professional agriculture society that is dedicated to promoting scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship among its members. Sigma Alpha organizes a two-day stay-over for female high school students who have received admission into Penn State, College of Agricultural. To learn more about this student group, please visit [www.clubs.psu.edu/up/sigmaalpha/index.htm](http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/sigmaalpha/index.htm)

### **Society of Women Engineers (SWE)**

#### **College of Engineering**

SWE mission is to stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrate the value of diversity. To learn more about this student group, please visit [www.engr.psu.edu/swe/NationalSWE.html](http://www.engr.psu.edu/swe/NationalSWE.html)

### **Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG)**

#### **College of Earth and Mineral Sciences**

SWIG is an official, university-recognized organization largely made up of students within the Department of Geography. SWIG's mission is to promote the participation of women in the discipline of geography and to empower women who are pursuing academic and professional careers in geography. We provide regular opportunities for women and supporters of women to come together for intellectual, professional, and personal support, and to develop a network of information and resources.

To learn more about this student group, please visit, [www.geog.psu.edu/swig](http://www.geog.psu.edu/swig)

## **wConnect**

### **College of Information Sciences and Technology\***

wConnect is an innovative research community dedicated to introducing the option of a future in computing to women. Our community is rooted at Penn State University but its branches outstretch to high school students, university undergraduates, sponsors, and fellow researchers. The collaboration within each branch and as a whole provides the solid foundation for a change. We want women to understand and approach Information Technology as an option for their futures. Through IT workshops at local high schools, a physical presence at Penn State, focus groups, and an online community, wConnect can effectively study the mechanisms for how to initiate this change. We are funded by the National Science Foundation through the "Broadening Participation in Computing" program. Our core community is comprised of women in our computer-related educational programs at Penn State, primarily in the College of Information Sciences & Technology. However we also reach out from Penn State, using social connections between our members and their high schools to engage with younger women, and using links to our alumni in the corporate world or in graduate school, to bring in perspectives and advice from more experienced women. Together we can plant the seeds for futures in computing. Our Websites: The Marketing (General Site) - <http://wconnect.ist.psu.edu/>. The Actual Community (must be a member to see most of it) - <https://collab.ist.psu.edu/wconnect/>

## **Women in Mathematics (WIM)**

### **Eberly College of Science**

Women in Mathematics is a group of undergraduate students, graduate students, postdocs, instructors, and other faculty members of the mathematics department at Penn State. Our main objective is to provide support and information to the women within the mathematics community at PSU at all levels, from undergraduate students to faculty members. To learn more about the student group, please visit, [www.math.psu.edu/wim/index.php](http://www.math.psu.edu/wim/index.php)

"I've always and am happy I got involved with it. I first heard of it when Aissa Wade invited me to attend (which I always thought was very kind of her, since I'm not usually approached by faculty about stuff besides coursework in the other science departments). I think it's a comfortable mixer between faculty, grads, and undergrads -- it's a much more relaxed environment than chatting to a professor in a classroom setting. Also, if I had never gone, I very likely wouldn't have met you or heard about your research! :) So WIM gets awesome networking bonus points from me." – Megan Catalano

## **Women in the Sciences and Engineering (WISE) House**

### **WISE Institute**

WISE House is a female only special living option for undergraduate students who are majoring in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). WISE House is designed to provide students with an opportunity to network with experienced professionals, receive mentoring, develop and build leadership skills, engage in outreach within the State College community, receive academic support and develop relationships with fellow female classmates. Students living in WISE House have access to in-house tutoring during the fall and spring semesters, as well as pre-finals study sessions. Also, students are invited to attend professional conferences that are designed to help women discover how professional women in the sciences balance their education, careers, and personal lives. To learn more about the student group, please visit <http://www.equity.psu.edu/wise/ug-wiseslo.asp>.

## **Women in Information Sciences and Technology (WIST)**

### **College of Information Sciences and Technology**

The purpose of WIST is to promote a sense of unity among women in the Penn State College of Information Sciences and Technology by offering networking opportunities, career resources, community and academic presentations, and leadership training. The organization strives to support the recruitment and sustained interest of women in the college, ensuring that female students and faculty members are equally and actively involved in all aspects of education and in the rapidly changing world of technology. To learn more about the student group, please visit

<http://wist.ist.psu.edu/main.html>

## **Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)\***

### **Berks Campus**

The women on campus who have spent their professional lives study science, engineering, agriculture, and other related fields host an organization called WISE at Berks. WISE provides opportunities for female students, faculty, and working professionals to meet weekly in nonacademic settings. The group has informal programs with opportunities to meet professionals, to experience science in unique ways not available in classes, to take industrial tours, and to attend conferences. The women conduct workshops for the Careers with Math Options Conference and other outreach programs. The activities are built around new suggestions and ideas from member students. Each year is different, but consistently educational in a social setting.

In the past WISE at Berks women have been on Berks Cable TV, toured Covance and the Penn State Farms, hosted speakers on career opportunities and employment, and hosted role model dinners. They have job shadowed, conducted conference session for seventh graders and girl scouts, participated in an etiquette dinner, and attended the Women's Commission banquet. To learn more about this group, please contact Janet Winter at [jmw11@psu.edu](mailto:jmw11@psu.edu).

## **Women's Leadership Initiative\***

The Women's Leadership Initiative is a yearlong, multidisciplinary program for students in the College of Health and Human Development. The program educates students about leadership concepts and theories, inspires students to be leaders, and empowers them to seek leadership roles throughout their lives. Students experience leadership in action via their mentoring partnerships and interactions with women leaders at Penn State, in the community, and across the country.

\*These groups are not formal student groups. They are for female students in STEM fields but run by faculty and staff.