



August 8, 2011  
Issue 2: 26

Women in Science and Engineering

[www.usc.edu/programs/wise](http://www.usc.edu/programs/wise)

Deadlines for  
**WiSE Undergraduate Research Grants**

USC Dornsife College  
are approaching!

Applications Due:  
Dornsife: **AUGUST 28**

Up to fifteen Undergraduate Research Fellowships are granted each year in both USC Dornsife and in the Viterbi School of Engineering to support summer and academic year research (Five awards each in the fall, spring and summer terms). The goal is to familiarize students with laboratory research and link them with a mentor early on. It is hoped that through the experience of first-hand research at the undergraduate level, the chances will increase that students will choose to pursue a graduate degree in science or engineering.

For more information visit,  
[http://www.usc.edu/programs/wise/programs/undergrad\\_research/](http://www.usc.edu/programs/wise/programs/undergrad_research/)

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*Come Stop By*

You are cordially invited to attend the **Poster Symposium** of the **USC Young Researchers Program** (partially sponsored by WISE) in the courtyard of Zumberge Hall (ZHS, center of building) on **Friday, August 12, 2011 from 11 am to 1 pm**. Please join us in celebrating the hardwork of the nine high school students working in eight participating labs from the Earth Science department, the Physics department, the Neuroscience department and the Biology department.

To see all the USC  
WiSE Grant Programs,  
including ongoing grants  
without specific dead-  
lines, please [click here](#).

WISEPROG@USC.EDU

WISE UPCOMING DEADLINES

WISE FACULTY  
NETWORKING  
MEETING



Fall Undergraduate Research Awards

Dornsife: August 28

Meetings held the last Thursday of the month at 12pm in HNB 107; Thursday, August 25, 2011; Bring you own lunch. Cookies, coffee, tea provided.

## CONFERENCES

### E-CASE & E-TECH 2012 HONG KONG March 30 - April 1, 2012



Submissions Due: **October 15**

You are cordially invited to participate in the 2012 International Conference on e-Commerce, e-Administration, e-Society, e-Education, and e-Technology (e-CASE & e-Tech 2012) to be held in Hong Kong, March, 2012. The main objective of e-CASE & e-Tech 2012 is to provide a platform for researchers, engineers, academicians as well as industrial professionals from all over the world to present their research results and development activities in e-Commerce, e-Administration, e-Society, e-Education, and e-Technology. This conference provides opportunities for the delegates to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations and to find global partners for future collaboration.

All submissions to the conference will be reviewed by at least two independent peers for technical merit and content. It is anticipated that a broad range of research.

For additional information, [click here](#).

## AWIS

The Mission of the Los Angeles and Ventura County Chapter of AWIS is to foster the personal and professional skills of women so they can become leaders in their field, support women at all stages of their career through career development workshops, networking opportunities, social gatherings, and specific mentoring programs, promote a collegial environment where women from different disciplines and employment sectors, feel confident to share their experience, advice, and expertise for the benefit of all members.

### Happy Hour at The Arsenal

Wednesday, August 17, 2011  
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

12012 W. Pico Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

## WOMEN HITTING A WALL IN IT

By Brittany Ballenstedt

August 2, 2011

Nextgov.com

Women in information technology careers are still facing a glass ceiling, with most staying in junior or mid-level management positions, according to a new report.

The report, by Women in Technology, found that many women in IT fields feel they are being passed over for promotion in favor of male colleagues. While 61 percent of respondents have more than 10 years of experience in the tech sector, for example, only 26 percent have reached senior management or board level, the study found.

"These results indicate that the big strides toward equality that we had hoped for in 2007 have not yet happened and that the gender balance in the workplace still has a long way to go," the report states.

While long career breaks for things like maternity leave and child care could be a reason women miss out on promotions, the survey results do not differ greatly from 2007, when the vast majority of respondents had not taken and did not intend to take a career break after maternity leave, the survey found.

A number of benefits are available to women in IT, however, the study found. Remote working is the most widely offered and popular benefit: 80 percent of employers offer remote working options, and 71 percent of women take the opportunity. Flexible working hours also are popular, with 75 percent of businesses offering them and 61 percent of women using the option. Working part time or sharing a job were rejected by most women in the survey.

In addition, salary, benefits, career opportunities and flexible work hours ranked as the top four reasons why women apply for jobs with certain organizations, the study found.

In June, the Merit Systems Protection Board found that women remain relatively scarce in a few federal job fields including information technology and engineering. The discrepancy stems more from the fact that men outnumber women in science and technology-related degrees conferred each year, MSPB found.

What implications does the Women in Technology study hold for federal agencies? Are women in federal IT jobs also facing a glass ceiling when it comes to promotions?

For the original article, [click here](#).

## GENDER GAP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JOBS PERSISTS, REPORT SAYS

August 3, 2011

LA Times

The deficit of women in science and technology endures, even though they tend to earn far more than their counterparts in other fields, according to the Commerce Department.

The fact that female scientists, engineers, mathematicians and technology honchos have been sorely lacking for the past decade is no surprise. Researchers from the Commerce Department's Economics and Statistics Administration point to pervasive gender stereotyping, the absence of role models and the rarity of positions with flexibility for families as potential causes.

Although 48% of the country's workforce is female, just 24% of women go into science and technology industries. The gender represents 40% of science employees, but makes up just 14% of workers in engineering, which has 330,000 women and more than 2 million men.

But those female employees earned about \$31 an hour compared with the \$19 an hour earned by women in other sectors. Men in science and technology fields draw about \$36 an hour.

The percentage of college-educated women in the workforce has increased over the past decade, but they are severely underrepresented among degree-holders in science, math, technology and especially engineering. The few who do earn such degrees tend to enter unrelated industries such as education or health-care.

"We haven't done as well as we could to encourage young people to go into [science and technology] jobs -- particularly women -- which inhibits American innovation," Rebecca Blank, acting Secretary of Commerce, said in a statement.

For the original article, [click here](#).



## NMSU LAS CRUCES PROGRAM HELPS WOMEN BREAK INTO COMPUTER SCIENCE

August 1, 2011

KRWG News

LAS CRUCES (krwg) - The next Steve Jobs or Mark Zuckerberg may very well be a Samantha or a Megan and the Young Women in Computing program at New Mexico State University is looking to help make that a reality by cultivating young women's interest in computer science.

YWiC has a camp for middle school and high school students that teaches adolescent girls about different areas of computer science and gives them hands-on experience with animation, robotics and Web programming.

"The camp is organized so girls can become confident in their computer science abilities and hopefully pursue careers in computer science, a field in which they are a minority," said Rebecca Galves, who coordinates the YWiC program along with Rachel Jensen.

One project the middle-school students work on is a graphics oriented animation program students use to make 3D movies and create their own interactive story. They also use software that allows them to build small robots and program them to perform tasks.

The high school students program an intensive animation simulation that involves greater use of programming language and code. They also use programming software that includes a set of sewable electronic components which allows them to create interactive fashion pieces using LED lights and other materials.

YWiC has been in existence for the last six years and is run by the Department of Computer Science at NMSU, through a grant made available from the National Science Foundation. Those involved in the program also conduct outreach programs and work with teachers, administrators and anyone else interested in bringing computer science activities to the classroom.

"We meet with hundreds of students and teachers each year to introduce computing in friendly, fun and interactive ways in order to heighten everyone's awareness about the many faces of computing," Galves said.

While many young people use computers and are familiar with various applications, YWiC tries to emphasize computer programming and ways in which computer science relates to virtually every occupational field.

For more information about the YWiC program, contact Galves at [rgalves@cs.nmsu.edu](mailto:rgalves@cs.nmsu.edu) or Jensen at [rjensen@nmsu.edu](mailto:rjensen@nmsu.edu). Information is also available on the YWiC website at [www.cs.nmsu.edu/ywic](http://www.cs.nmsu.edu/ywic). © Copyright 2011, krwg

For the original article, [click here](#).

## HIGHER PAY NOT LURING WOMEN TO TECH JOBS

By Jillian Berman

August 3, 2011

Bloomberg.com

A smaller wage gap between the sexes in technical areas like science, engineering and mathematics is failing to entice more U.S. women to take jobs in those fields, according to a government study.

Women accounted for 24 percent of the workforce in the so-called STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math in 2009, unchanged from 2000, a report from the Commerce Department's Economics and Statistics Bureau showed today. Female employees in those areas earned 14 percent less than their male counterparts, compared with 21 percent less in other types of work, the report said.

Increasing the number of Americans, particularly women, employed in STEM will drive innovation, helping the U.S. compete in the global economy, acting Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank said. As unemployment hovers above 9 percent, government officials and the private employers are looking to attract more workers into these technical fields.

"Our ability to increase the number of STEM workers will increase our ability to foster economic growth," Blank said on a conference call with reporters. "We haven't done as well as we could to prepare young people, and particularly women, to prepare for STEM jobs."

Women are less likely to have a degree in STEM fields, the study found, even as they account for about half of the college-educated workforce. There were 2.5 million women workers with a degree in these technical fields in 2009 compared with 6.7 million men.

### Early Decision

Women may be choosing not to pursue education in STEM-related fields as early as grade school, said Linda Rosen, chief executive officer of Change the Equation, an organization of CEOs focused on boosting innovation.

"As early as second grade, girls are more likely than boys to say that math isn't for them," Rosen said on the call.

Even women who choose to get a technical degree are less likely to pursue a career in those industries than their male counterparts, the study found. Twenty-six percent of women with STEM degrees choose a career in a related field compared with almost 40 percent of men.

Blank said the study didn't address the reasons why women may be choosing other fields, even with higher salary opportunities in STEM careers. Perhaps a lack of role models and less flexible work schedules may be to blame, she said.

"It adds to the puzzle of what is it that we're doing inside of our schools, inside of our families, that makes STEM jobs seemingly less attractive to girls," she said.

Today's report is the second in a Commerce Department series on science, technology, engineering and math. The first report, released last month, found that STEM workers make over 25 percent more on average than workers in other fields.

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For the full original story, [click here](#).



Increasing the number of Americans, particularly women, employed in STEM will drive innovation, helping the U.S. compete in the global economy, acting Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank said. Photographer: Noah Berger/Bloomberg

COMMERCE CHIEF:  
LACK OF WOMEN IN MATH, SCIENCE FIELDS IS 'UNACCEPTABLE'

By Brendan Sasso  
August 3, 2011  
The Hill

The gap between women in men in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields is “unacceptable,” acting Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank said on Wednesday.

Women hold only 24 percent of STEM jobs, according to a report released Wednesday by the Commerce Department.

That figure has remained consistent over the past decade despite the fact that the share of college-educated women has increased.

Blank argued that encouraging more women to enter STEM fields would improve economic growth.

“We haven’t done as well as we could to encourage young people to go into STEM jobs, particularly women, which inhibits American innovation,” Blank said. “Closing the gender gap in STEM degrees will boost the number of Americans in STEM jobs, and that will enhance U.S. innovation and sharpen our global competitiveness.”

Blank said the gender gap may be the result of too few female role models in STEM, gender stereotypes and less family-friendly flexibility in STEM jobs.

The report found that although women in STEM jobs earn less than their male counterparts, the wage gap is smaller than in other fields.

Women in STEM earn 14 percent less than men in STEM, which is smaller than the 21 percent gender wage gap in non-STEM jobs.

Blank speculated the smaller wage gap may be because the women who do enter the fields are more motivated and devoted than women in other professions.

Engineering is the most male-dominated STEM occupation, according to the report, but it is also has the smallest gender wage gap.

For the original article, [click here](#).