Empowering Women as Leaders in Systems Engineering (EWLSE) INCOSE IS2015 Report

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We welcomed nearly 50 men and women in attendance at the inaugural INCOSE IS 2015 Empowering Women as Leaders in Systems Engineering (EWLSE) meeting on July 14, 2015. Special thanks goes to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) for sponsoring EWLSE by creating brochures for distribution at the conference, providing a banner displayed in the INCOSE booth, and sponsoring two tables of EWLSE members at the INCOSE banquet.

The vision of this new INCOSE group is for men and women to work together as advocates for women as leaders in systems engineering by:

• Creating a systems engineering environment welcoming to all
• Promoting the demonstrated value of women as systems engineers and leaders
• Enabling increased participation and retention of women in systems engineering leadership
• Engaging women at all levels of education around the world

EWLSE members that are ready to lead volunteers in activities to support their designated area include:

• Regina Griego: Highlighting INCOSE Leadership
• Erik DeVito: Collaborating at the INCOSE Chapter, Regional, and Sector Levels

For those interested in advocating for women in systems engineering and supporting one of the above areas, please join EWLSE through your incose.org Profile. After you have joined, access EWLSE through: INCOSE Connect > Programs and Projects > Empowering Women.

Responses that meeting attendees shared as to what empowers them included:

• making a difference
• people listening
• the ability to face difficult challenges
• everyone in the room
• comes from within
• knowledge
• people in relationships
• blue hair

What Empowers You?

Useful initiatives are on the following websites:

• INCOSE Systems Science Working Group at https://www.sites.google.com/site/syssciwg/projects/o-systems-philosophy
• Centre for Systems Philosophy at http://systemsphilosophy.org/
• Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science at http://www.bcsss.org/research/fields-and-groups/systems-science-andphilosophy/
• Manifesto for General Systems Transdisciplinarity at http://www.systemology.org