

Two excellent keynotes from R. James Woolsey, former Director of the CIA and Bill Murtagh, Assistant Director, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, mesmerized the audience. Participants experienced over 70 peer-reviewed presentations, panels, and tutorials during the 3 days. We would like to thank the Chesapeake Chapter, Southern Maryland Chapter, sponsors, steering committee, volunteers, presenters and participants for their continuous support and hard work in making the SEDC 2016 conference a great success.

## Working Group Updates

### Empowering Women as Leaders in Systems Engineering (EWLSE) track at the Regional Mini Conference (RMC) 2016

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When the EWLSE initiative launched at the 2015 IS, it raised awareness of the need for advocates for women as leaders in system engineering. This outreach to membership continued at the 2016 IW, as more INCOSE members learned of the initiative. The sessions held at the IS and IW enabled regional event planners to learn about EWLSE and continue the snowball effect of raising awareness of the initiative's mission and vision. The EWLSE mission to develop engaging content and delivery approaches for promoting successful strategies for developing women leaders in systems engineering across cultures, locations and domains is being realized through tracks at regional events, such as the RMC 2016 conference held in Los Angeles, CA April 9-10, 2016. After members of the RMC 2016 planning team learned of EWLSE at the 2016 IW, a track was created for the conference to continue to engage more of the INCOSE community to raise awareness and garner support for the evolution that EWLSE promotes.

Many participants of RMC 2016 attended the EWLSE track, with over half of the audience being male attendees. To start the track, all attendees were asked to introduce themselves by name and to share what empowers them. This exercise was one of the first things experienced by the facilitator at the first EWLSE meeting attended at the 2015 IS, and it was a great kickoff to the program as it gave the entire audience a chance to learn a little about each other, to reflect on what empowerment may be, and also provided smiles and laughs to start the program.

The track keynote speaker, Rosalind Lewis from The Aerospace Corporation, further set the stage for the session with her engaging talk about the impact of knowledge and authority on actions and being empowered. Through Rosalind's examples in both engineering environments and day-to-day actions such as commuting, she showcased the choices that individuals have and how education and empowerment help shape the path that they choose. A panel for questions and discussion that included Rosalind, another leader in systems engineering, Phyllis Marbach, and a leader in STEM outreach and education in California, Susan Belgrad followed the Keynote. The engaging discussion by the panelists and questions and interaction from attendees provided insight to where we can make the most impact in continuing to encourage and empower women as leaders in systems engineering.

EWLSE events are continuing at other regional events. The leadership team continues to engage group members and to respond to requests for events and information. For more information, please join the group on [incose.org](http://incose.org) through the following steps:

- Login to your member account
- Select Profile Home
- Scroll to My Committees/Working Groups
- Select Browse/Join a Working Group
- Select "Empowering Women" on the right
- Scroll down to Committee Tasks
- Select "Join this Working Group"

## Empowering Women at the INCOSE 2016 International Symposium

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Please support the vision of men and women working together as advocates for women as leaders in systems engineering by joining us at our two Empowering Women as Leaders in Systems Engineering (EWLSE) events at the INCOSE IS 2016 in Edinburgh.

Our first event is the EWLSE IS2016 Leadership Workshop on Sunday, July 17, from 1:00 – 5:15 pm (Please RSVP: [ewlse@incose.org](mailto:ewlse@incose.org)). We enthusiastically invite all symposium participants to join in an open sincere dialogue where we will share our stories, exchanging tips and insights from (or among) women leaders in systems engineering on navigating the leadership journey, with particular emphasis on the Women Systems Engineers' brand of leadership. The dialogue will continue throughout the symposium, so do not miss the conversation!