Welcome to Iowa State University!

The staff members of the Program for Women in Science and Engineering (PWSE) partner with faculty members from across campus to achieve our vision of engaging more women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. We realize that as a new faculty member you are trying to learn as much as you can about Iowa State in a very short timeframe. We don’t want to add to your sense of information overload during your first semester. However, we want to take this opportunity to make you aware of PWSE and ways we might be able to support each other’s efforts. I’d also encourage you to check out the Faculty, Data, and Resource pages on our website. At any point during your career at Iowa State, if you are interested in getting involved in our programs or collaborating on an external grant proposal, please get in touch with us. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you as we work to make Iowa State and the STEM professions more inclusive.

Lora Leigh Chrystol
Director, Program for Women in Science and Engineering

How you can get involved...
To reach our vision of engaging more women in STEM fields, the Program for Women in Science and Engineering relies on the commitment of individuals outside of our staff. Faculty and staff from across the university are involved with PWSE in a variety of ways, the examples listed below illustrate some of the ways that ISU faculty, staff, and departments have supported the mission of PWSE.

- Presenting sessions or giving tours related to their discipline at the Taking the Road Less Traveled Career Conferences for 6-12 grade girls (offered 6 times per year).
- Serving as ‘panel members’ for sessions offered during the academic year or summer on issues such as ‘balancing career and family’, ‘differences between undergrad and grad school in STEM’, etc.
- Developing educational ‘kits’ related to STEM research areas that can be used in classroom visits to K-12 schools.
- Attending networking events with STEM undergraduate students, giving them a chance to meet faculty and STEM professionals.
- Arranging opportunities for women (alumni, faculty, postdocs, graduate students, and undergraduate students) associated with a STEM department to connect with each other.
- Engaging STEM undergraduate women in research opportunities.
- Revising curriculum, marketing materials, websites, etc. to present a more inclusive vision of STEM.

Learn more about PWSE and how we can help your grant efforts...

Quick Facts about PWSE

- PWSE provides K-12 outreach programs that reach 13,000 K-12 students from across the state of Iowa annually.
- PWSE coordinates residential and course-based learning communities serving over 400 direct from high school, transfer and second-year women in STEM majors each year.
- Fall 2012, women accounted for a record 4,626 of students in STEM disciplines at Iowa State.
- During the 2012-2013 year, PWSE staff members met with over 270 prospective students and their families as a part of the daily campus visit program through the Office of Admissions.
- PWSE provides regular e-mail updates to over 3500 female undergraduate STEM students, providing them with information on programs, academic support, and professional development opportunities.
Our History

The Program for Women in Science and Engineering (PWSE) was founded in 1986 by a group of ISU faculty and staff concerned about the underrepresentation and underutilization of women in science and engineering. PWSE staff members have a strong history of collaborating with others to offer programs to increase the participation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. PWSE staff members also serve as a resource to the Iowa State community on issues related to women in STEM and creating a culture within the institution that is supportive of the success of women in STEM. The program has evolved over its history to focus on programming and issues associated with K-14 outreach and the undergraduate STEM experience.

PWSE reports to the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost and supports undergraduate students in four colleges (Agriculture and Life Sciences, Engineering, Human Sciences, and Liberal Arts and Sciences) in over 50 STEM majors.

How PWSE can help your grant efforts...

PWSE collaborates in a variety of ways to support the external grant efforts of ISU faculty members. A PWSE staff member will work individually with you to develop grants or grant components that align with the PWSE mission and your interests. Below are examples of ways PWSE has assisted faculty with their grant efforts in the past:

- Working collaboratively with faculty to develop ideas/initiatives that faculty can incorporate into their broader impact/educational programming within grants. Examples of recent collaborative components that faculty members have incorporated into their proposals are available at: [www.pwse.iastate.edu/facultypartners.html](http://www.pwse.iastate.edu/facultypartners.html)
- Providing letters of support/collaboration for faculty who want to include work supporting women/diversity in STEM as a part of the broader impact of their grants to NSF (or other agencies).
- Serving as collaborators or Co-PI’s on grants aimed at increasing the representation of women in STEM.
- Directing faculty to data and literature relevant to the underrepresentation of women in STEM (both national and ISU data).
- Connecting faculty with others (both inside Iowa State and externally) who are working with programs to increase the diversity of students within STEM.

If you are an ISU researcher/faculty member that would like to collaborate with PWSE on a grant application, please contact a member of the Program for Women in Science and Engineering staff.

Program for Women in Science and Engineering

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