



November 10, 2011

To: Samantha Segall-Anderson Debra Facktor Lepore
President, WIA President, WIA Foundation

From: Angela Phillips Diaz
Managing Director, Global Policy Research Institute, Purdue University

Subject: In appreciation Outstanding Member Recognition November 1, 2011

I send my heartfelt thanks to you and Women In Aerospace (WIA) for the extraordinary evening at the Annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet. As Kathy Sullivan so aptly stated “We’ve come a long way baby.” As I looked around the room surrounded by so many friends and colleagues, it was quite overwhelming and humbling. I recalled the:

- Early days of WIA when all the women in aerospace in the DC area knew each other because there were so few of us; this year’s banquet attendees and sponsors numbered over 300 representing leaders (women and men) in this community worldwide.
- Mentors like Sean O’Keefe, Lyn Cline, and Bill Readdy who had the courage to let me take on high visibility projects like the Space Station negotiations, the Exploration Initiative launch, or the Iran Non-proliferation Act amendment negotiations or leading major NASA organizations in human space flight, education, and legislative affairs when I wasn’t the leading candidate let alone the traditional candidate.
- Peers like Kate Kronmiller, Jeff Trauberman, Sandy Coleman, and Debra Facktor Lepore who’s perseverance in supporting WIA and promoting its mission has seen a fledgling organization evolve to an international icon dedicated to expanding women’s opportunities for leadership and increasing their visibility in the aerospace community globally.
- Working with, learning from, and mentoring talented women like Rebecca Spyke Keiser who have become leaders in this community and with WIA.

With so much attention on innovation, creativity, and leadership given the recent passing of Steve Jobs, in its own way WIA reflects a forward leaning in creating a highly respected cadre of women in the aerospace and aviation workforce in the private and public sectors worldwide. Although WIA had humble beginnings not in a Silicon Valley garage, but around the kitchen table with visionary women leaders like Roselee Roberts, Marcia Smith, and Lori Garver. These women, like Jobs, had the vision, courage, and persistence to remain true to their core values with a determined focus on having a sustainable impact on people who could make a tangible difference in the aerospace community as demonstrated over the past quarter century. The best is yet to come through your leadership and others. My plaque is proudly displayed in my Purdue office as a reminder and acknowledgement of WIA’s continuing service to this community. Thank you.