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Awards Ceremony



SPACE COAST CHAPTER

The Space Coast Chapter of Women In Defense was founded on January 21, 2013 and is an affiliate of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA).

The Chapter is a source for networking, professional development, education and mentoring of women leaders on the Space Coast of Florida.

Women In Defense Space Coast Chapter

PO Box 144 | Cocoa, FL 32923
www.scwid.org | email: communications@scwid.org

Space Coast Women In Defense

Awards Ceremony

June 23, 2021

Courtyard by Marriott Cocoa Beach

AGENDA

- 5:30pm to 6:00 pm Networking
- 6:00pm to 6:05pm Welcome — Sandy Pfrimmer, President
WIDSC
- 6:05 pm to 6:15pm Rachel McCaffrey, Vice President,
Membership and Chapters, NDIA and
Executive Director, WID
- 6:15pm to 6:25pm STEM Awards — Leslie Tibbetts, Chair
Award & Recognition
- 6:25 pm to 6:55 pm Elaine Larsen — Larsen Motor Sports
- 6:55 pm to 7:20 pm Scholarship Presentations & Group Photo
- 7:20 pm Silent Auction Closes & Networking
- 7:30 pm Program Concludes

About WIDSC STEM Scholarships

Women In Defense Space Coast Chapter offers STEM scholarships to women of merit to help them pursue their educational goals, whether just beginning a post secondary education or working on a doctorate degree. Since its inception WIDSC awarded Scholarship Awards totaling over \$45,000.

STEM Business Innovator of the Year

Christel Reaves — Connected Class

Christel Reaves is the founder and CEO of Connected Class where she has developed an online community for both educators and families to support their learning and that of their children. Over the past 25 years, Christel has taught Pre-K to 12th grade and developed educators in over 100 schools throughout the State of Florida with customized professional development based on their students' need. Mrs. Reaves has presented to thousands of public and nonpublic school educators from the national to local level on topics such as building Professional Learning Communities, designing STEM projects, developing relationships between the classroom and home environment as well as cultivating data teams to analyze student formative assessments to drive instruction.

Christel's dedication to education has led to her being designated as Teacher of the Year by her peers and nominated for the **Dwyer Award for Teaching Excellence** in Palm Beach County, Florida. Mrs. Reaves was also featured on **Taking the Lead**, a WPBF Channel 25 News segment about being an innovative teacher and inspiring students to achieve.

Christel obtained her master's degree in Educational Leadership K-12 from Florida Atlantic University. Christel Reaves also holds a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York (S.U.N.Y) College at Cortland in Elementary Education and Early Secondary Biology Education.

On behalf of the Space Coast Women in Defense, we thank our community and sponsors for their continued support!

STEM Educator of the Year **Signe Post — Melbourne High School**

Signe Post was nominated by Jim Meegan. Signe Post is a long-time Melbourne High School teacher. She teaches AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A and IB Computer Science. In addition she is the sponsor of the school's Engineering Club, their Computer Science Club, the National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. More importantly, she started their Discover Engineering Day that is held annually on the school campus.

Signe works with the local STEM corporations and has them come and talk with the students and display their products (drones, flight simulators, dragsters, etc.) Companies such as Collins Aerospace, L3 Harris, Northrop Grumman, Larsen Motorsports, etc. have all participated in recent years. Ms. Post has formed a female only STEM club to promote females pursuing these fields.

STEM Mentor of the Year **Michelle Grimes Atlantic Elementary**

Michelle Grimes was nominated by Summer Naylor. Mrs. Grimes goes above and beyond to bring science and STEM experiences to our school. She has organized events such as science fair, and an invention convention, as well as developed a school garden and led a STEM activity class on the wheel last year. She works beyond her hours to make sure that students have access to hands on science experiences. Michelle was highly recommend her to be recognized for her efforts.

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Guest Speaker

Elaine Larsen — Larsen Motor Sports



With over 20 years of drag racing experience, Elaine Larsen found her home behind the wheel of her jet dragsters. A 2X World Champion, Elaine, her husband, Chris, their son, Andrew and dog, Nitro, live their lives at full throttle. Mentoring the next generation of High Performance Vehicles Specialist is what fuels Elaine today. Her focus for 2021 and beyond is to give women a chance to get behind the wheel, or provide hands-on opportunities in this male dominated industry.

Being a strong positive female role model is a job Elaine takes very seriously, not only for the little girls, but for all ladies. Her message: Never give up – always give 100%. "Drag Racing is the equalizer, on any given day," says Elaine. "I have the same chance as anyone to win, it just has to be my day!"

2021 Scholarship Winners

Rowan Baiter	Zaafira Haque
Morgan Bentley	Brooke Humphrys
Emma Berner	Sophia Maldonado
Leah Edmondson-Wood	Katie Matthews
Holly Grant	Sydney Sharp
Lauren Ann Graham	Ophelia Winslett

2021 STEM Innovation Awardees

Junior Achievement Space Coast	Michelle Grimes
Signe Post	Connected Class
Rolle IT	

STEM Non-Profit Innovator of the Year **Junior Achievement, Space Coast Florida**

Junior Achievement of the Space Coast has lead the charge to have a broader reach and become more adaptive during COVID. Representing the organization are Ann Conroy Baiter.

Junior Achievement of the Space Coast (JASC) is working to build a better Brevard! Through our volunteer-delivered, K-12 programs that foster work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy skills. Junior Achievement uses experiential learning to inspire kids to dream big and reach their potential, and we're proud to say they impact more than 13,000 students throughout Brevard County each year.

Through an innovative partnership between the business community, educators, and volunteers, Junior Achievement of the Space Coast helps young people connect with relevant learning and the importance of staying in school, building a bridge between what kids learn in the classroom to how it is applied in the real world. JA inspires students to develop competitive skills and confidence. Their success bolsters the local workforce and contributes to economic growth. JA empowers Brevard County young

STEM Leadership Star of the Year **Cordell & Marla Rolle — Rolle IT**

Cordell Rolle is the owner and founder of Rolle IT. Rolle IT is a business technology partner that focuses on adding real value for your business. They simplify and leverage technology for their customers by streamlining their business process with customized software and IT support. Services include Business and Systems Analysis, IT Support and Remote Monitoring, Web Application Development, Client-Server Application Development, Mobile Application Development and Quality Assurance.

Rolle IT have made great strides in assisting companies with their technology challenges during and after the pandemic. Rolle IT is Veteran Owned and operated.