WEPAN Knowledge Center

NSF EEC #0648210

June 8-11, 2009 Joint Annual Meeting
Human Resource Development
WKC Background

• Task Force January 2006
• Grant Approval June 2007
• Initial Assumptions:
  • Lots of excellent existing resources
  • Scattered, difficult to find
  • Hard to stay current
  • Challenging to apply policy practice
  • Lots of reinventing the wheel
Desired Long Term Outcome

• Increase the number, scope and effectiveness of initiatives to recruit, retain and advance women in engineering

• Create a community-based and supported collection to bring increased visibility to resources, entities, programs, data, statistics, information and knowledge

• Develop an online community of practice to promote collaboration, transfer of tacit knowledge, wisdom
How We Envision WKC

- WKC is an…

- Annotated, searchable, taxonomy-driven, globally accessible, specially-focused

- Special Collection card catalog in the sky

- with Jetson community center attached!
Survey: Planning the WKC

- Distributed to 2167 individuals in November 2009, 226 responses
- WEPAN, ASEE-ERM, PGE list serves + ASEE Corporate Member Council
- Most frequent means of obtaining information cited was open Web searches. Relatively low awareness of available resources.
- Similar needs across academic and industry/government respondents with some variation in degrees of emphasis: information, links, activities, etc., related to recruitment, retention, successful strategies, trends, up-to-date data on research on race, gender, ethnicity, etc.
- Two-thirds of respondents devote quarter time or less to WIE issues. 19% devote half time or more.
- Needs for STEM vs. engineering-specific information.
- Importance of making the site easy to use, interdisciplinary, and globally friendly.
Next Steps: Communications & Marketing

**Goals**

- Raise awareness throughout the broader engineering community
- Build traffic to the site
- Encourage addition of new resources
- Establish "critical mass" for Professional Community

**Strategies**

- Web: Links and search engine optimization
- Introduction activities at ASEE-WEPAN annual conferences
- Ongoing e-mail news alerts and integration with membership processes
- Activities for engaging users
- Content and community partnerships
INTRODUCING THE WEPAN KNOWLEDGE CENTER
Respected. Relevant. Reliable.

The WEPAN Knowledge Center (WKC) is your online resource for research, best practices and professional communities dedicated to advancing all women in engineering. Thanks to a generous grant from the National Science Foundation and support from corporate sponsors, the days of searching all over the Web for information related to women in engineering are over!

The New Knowledge Center...
... is a WEPAN community-wide effort to pool our collective knowledge about available resources and make them more highly visible.
... is seeded with valuable resources and ready for you to add more links.
... is easy to learn and use with video tours and FAQs.
... actively seeks your participation and feedback!

WEPAN’s new digital Knowledge Center offers in one place:
• Access to cataloged and fully cited information resources including research reports, data and statistics, agenda papers, bibliographies, best practices, key programs, and more.

• An online Professional Community for networking, collaborating, identifying subject matter experts, and sharing information.

• Special online events.

Visit wepanknowledgecenter.org
WKC Professional Community

- **Goal:** Connect people across institutions and organizations and engage them in meaningful dialogue around the knowledge and resources.

- **Special Features:**
  - Tour, Calendar, Mailbox
  - Expert Search

- **Professional Interest Groups:**
  - Topic Groups
  - Collaboration Groups
Explore and Share
wepanknowledgecenter.org