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50 YEARS
and continuing action

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Engaging Girls in STEM and STEAM

Welcome to the 2016 October Issues and Impact. We are pleased to share with you the work we have done and the IMPACT we made to advance opportunities for Girls in STEM & STEAM at the 2016 California STEM Symposium in Anaheim California. For the Fourth year, the Commission was a proud Co-Convener of this innovative conference which brings together K-12 teachers from across the state to provide intensive training .

The CA Department of Education and the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation have such a strong commitment to enabling teachers to focus on methods to engage girl students in STEM. We thank them for their willingness to work with our team. Beth Broome, our UC Davis Partner on Million Women Mentors-California and Linda Calhoun of Careergirls.org also joined us as partners and we were able create a dynamic exhibit hall booth that provided information to many participants. We thank them for all of their support.

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MWM · CA
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STEM
2016 CALIFORNIA STEM SYMPOSIUM
Designing our Future | October 9-11, 2016

career **girls**

Commission Advancing Policy

California Pay Equity Task Force

The Commission's Pay Equity Task Force has spent the past six weeks developing plans for deliverables. The Task Force is focused on providing tools to employers and employees to support compliance and awareness around the new fair pay law. Everyone is looking forward to the next meeting on October 24th where much will be accomplished on defining some of the key concepts within the Equal Pay Act as well as solidifying the action plans of each subcommittee. Visit our [website](#) for more info.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

October 24th

Sacramento

State Capitol

Room 125

The Girls Academic Leadership Academy hosts STEM leaders



Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá and Senator Carol Liu answer student questions on mentorship and STEAM careers.



On Sunday October 9th, at a gathering organized by the Office of Senator Holly Mitchell, Los Angeles CCSWG Ambassadors and the Commission. Students and other STEAM leaders heard from Senator Carol Liu, Million Women Mentors-CA, Careergirls.org, Elevate Project, LA Community College and the office of Compton Mayor Aja Brown at the Girls Academic Leadership Academy. The Women's Institute for Young Girls, Senator Holly J. Mitchell's new district initiative which launched in the Fall of 2016 held a discussion with for students about the importance of mentorship, what they should look for in a mentor, and strategies for better engagement with girl serving organizations. The Women's Institute for Young Girls (WIYG) aims to help young female residents of Senator's Mitchell's Central and South Los Angeles district develop and successfully pursue careers of their choice. The first program, Empowering Leadership through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math (STEAM), has been conceived to empower young women to pursue their academic and professional aspirations in STEAM related fields. Empowering Leadership through STEAM program is housed at the new Girls Academic Leadership Academy in Los Angeles, a public all girls middle and high school co-located with LA High School. For more information visit the GALA website at Galacademy.org.

A special thank you to Joy Masha and Lora O'Connor for all their hard work in Southern California.

California STEM Symposium 2016



Panel Session Engaging Girls in STEM during the Session II Presentations on October 10th.



Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá speaks to the crowd about Million Women Mentors - CA during her introduction of NAME.



Monique McWayne of the California Department of Education updating Commissioners the CDE partnership. The Commission, CDE and Million Women Mentors CA will host town hall discussions across the state in 2017 to offer support communities in engaging girls in STEM.

The California STEM Symposium kicked off on October 9th at the Anaheim Convention Center. This state conference has become the largest annual gathering of STEM educators and STEM advocates in California. Commission Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá is credited with creating the 2013 - 2015 California STEM Symposium during her tenure as Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction under Tom Torlakson. Executive Director Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez has been on the STEM Symposium Leadership Team since 2015. As sponsors of the Symposium the Commission had a presence in the exhibition hall with Careergirls.org joining and organized a session. Our session Engaging Girls in STEM was moderated by Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá and featured speakers Beth Broome, UC Davis and [Million Women Mentors California](#), Linda Calhoun [Careergirls.org](#), Liz Heller, [Personal Powerworks & Screentones](#), Siboney Guardado, Allan Hancock College, and Nancy McIntyre, the [Robotics Education and Competition Foundation](#). This session was also the beginning of a statewide tour of town hall events to foster greater community support for engaging in STEM and supporting women in STEM careers.

Commission Meeting at STEM Symposium

Commissioners attending in person included Kafi Blumenfield, Assembly member Cristina Garcia, Chair Alcalá, Katie Buckland, Alisha Wilkins. Commissioners also participated from five other locations. The Commission discussed the interagency agreement with the California Department of Education, and our partnership with Million Women Mentors. Co-founder of MWM-CA provided fundraising strategies to continue sustaining and expanding our innovative programs.



Alisha Wilkins is a Member– At-Large for the Commission. Commissioner Wilkins was appointed in June 2014 by Governor Jerry Brown to the Commission on the Status of Women & Girls and will serve through —-2019. She was recently elected to the Commission’s Executive Committee, and co-chairs 2 subcommittees; Legislation and Sexual Assault and Family Violence.

Commissioner Wilkins has over 17 years of public affairs and government relations experience in both the for-profit and non-profit sector. She currently serves as a political consultant for the Empire Consulting Group, a government relations firm which offers campaign strategies and messaging to candidates running for public office; as well as, public relations consulting to businesses and organizations on public outreach and engagement with key decision makers.

Prior to her work with the Empire Consulting Group, Ms. Wilkins led the public affairs department for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest in Riverside County for ten years. Through her diligent and persistent work she was able to form successful strategic partnerships with elected officials, key opinion leaders, and grassroots organizations throughout the entire county amidst a political landscape which was at times hostile to reproductive health issues.

She also proudly serves as a board member for the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, Inc., Board member for the Inland Empire’s Chapter of Run Women Run, A Leadership Riverside Graduate, and recent Emerge California Graduate.

Alisha holds a Bachelor’s Degree from San Diego State University and a Master’s of Science in Organizational Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. She lives in Southern California with her husband of 21 years, and they have two sons.



Commissioner Ofelia Alvarez -Willis attended a job fair on the behalf of the Women Veterans Health Center. Commissioner Alvarez -Willis has been a major in the Army National Guard since 2012 and chief medical doctor of the Department of Emergency Medicine and Ambulatory Care at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Medical Center since 2007.

OCTOBER 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------|--|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 30 | 31 Halloween | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Rosh Hashanah | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 GALA | 10 Commission Business Meeting | 11 | 12 Yom Kippur | 13 | 14 | 15 CA Federation of Women's Clubs |
| CA STEM Symposium 2016 | | | | | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 <u>CA Pay Equity Task Force Meeting</u> | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |



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