



Women In Science Scholars

Spring Conference – Friday, March 11, 2022

Virtual

Marilyn Foote-Hudson, Executive Director for the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation welcomed the virtual attendees to the Women in Science Scholars Program Spring Conference.

Marilyn highlighted that the conference is about celebrating the scholars for their current accomplishments and their future endeavors. Marilyn reflected on a past memory when she shared the Women In Science Scholars program internationally. She was a presenter at the United Nation's International Women's Event in New York. Her daughter attended the conference with her and they were inspired by many of the presenters. She noted the theme during that conference was to celebrate your opportunities to be educated, and to use your voice as a leader when you have the opportunity. It's that type of inspiration that Marilyn sees with the Women In Science Scholars program. The theme of this conference is centered on helping women to build their voice while amplifying their own voice. Marilyn encouraged the audience to celebrate what they have accomplished and to share their leadership with the world.

Marilyn highlighted the work accomplished by the Foundation over the last year highlights many great new innovative ways to enhance education across North Carolina. It was exciting to hear the Foundation's new grant commitments in 2021 totaled over \$7 million. A recent traditional grant is in place to support STEM learning opportunities at the North Carolina Zoo. The grant will help the Zoo build several new enhancements centered on interactive, virtual self-directed learning and new ways to provide direct encounter opportunities for visitors. This traditional grant will provide greater hands-on learning while also reaching many visually and hearing challenged visitors.

Ribbon of Hope grants provide \$25,000 to a nonprofit expanding its current reach or developing a new pilot educational program. A recent Ribbon of Hope grant supports Book Harvest. This nonprofit will provide books and literacy materials for children in two new locations in laundromats. Creatively providing resources in areas of need is at the heart of the Ribbon of Hope grants.

Traditional Grants
Grants over \$25,000 with a state-wide impact to organizations working to help meet the educational needs of today's society and future generations.

Child Health Recognition Awards
Honoring local health departments, public health staff and individuals for innovative programs improving the lives of children in North Carolina.

Ribbon of Hope
Nonprofits with projects furthering science, health and education in their local communities can apply for a \$25,000 grant.

Women in Science Scholars
Outstanding undergraduate STEM students at 30 N.C. colleges and universities receive scholarships as well as being connected with mentors and program activities.

www.ncgskfoundation.org

Marilyn continued highlighting the Foundation's Child Health Recognition Awards program. This program is centered on public health professionals nominating and sharing their best practices aligned around children's health issues. This program allows the passion and commitment of our public health workers to share these great programs that are changing lives and providing better health outcomes across the state. We work with the North Carolina Public Health Association to implement this program.

Marilyn encouraged attendees to visit the Foundation's website at ncgskfoundation.org to learn more about the Foundation's support across North Carolina in 2021.

Marilyn introduced and welcomed Marjorie Stiegler, MD a senior medical affairs leader at GSK, and an Adjunct Professor at UNC Chapel Hill to the audience to provide the keynote.

Marjorie Podraza Stiegler MD, D.ABA, Senior Medical Lead, US Medical Affairs, GSK provided the keynote *"Creating a 'Lucky' Career"*. Dr. Stiegler highlighted her work as an anesthesiologist, as well as her background in healthcare quality and safety. She shared that her path was very different from many MD's that become doctors because other family members are doctors. She was not born into a family of physicians and worked to pay for her education. She attended a public high school, a state university, and then to medical school at Emory in Atlanta. She then completed her residency at Mass General, which is a Harvard hospital.



Dr. Stiegler's list of accomplishments included that she has started several small businesses, is a professional speaker, and a board member in addition to her other career roles. People often say to her "you are so lucky" but she believes "luck favors the prepared". It's the preparedness that she shared with our participants. She noted her gratitude for those who have helped her along her career path, and encouraged the audience to network and negotiate while building their path.

- 1) Secure your own "Board of Directors" - She noted you need people around you who believe in you, and they also need to have some influence over others. Talk to them and take advantage of mentors, and to seek out sponsors. Build sponsors to help open doors for you to new opportunities.
- 2) Fly your flag – you need others to highlight your work. Find people to talk or write about your accomplishments. Remember that your work will not speak for itself. People listen when others share your accomplishments.
- 3) Goals – when you know what you want, tell others what you want, let your boss know your skills. Talk about succession planning so your boss will know you are available.
- 4) Insider Connections – use LinkedIn. Create a great LinkedIn profile. This page will get you in front of a lot of people and opportunities. Use this tool! Think of setting up a connection and ask for time (20 minutes) and then ask the person questions. Consider what they like and don't like about a role, what are the opportunities for impact, what strengths are most valued in their work, ask about challenges and deal breakers.

- 5) Digital Footprint – spend 15 minutes a week building connections and raising your professional visibility. Blog, or tweet, comment on LinkedIn.
- 6) Create your own personal branding – to become a thought leader you need to focus your energy and build your expertise where you want. Own your narrative. When you look at a job description remember to use their words when you paint the picture of how you will fit into that role.
- 7) Every day is a micro-negotiation offer –your professional visibility depends on this. Continue to develop the skills you want as part of your portfolio. Advocate to work on the teams and projects that will help you advance.
- 8) Saying yes – Say yes early in your career journey to obtain more experience. It is important to know the scope of the commitment including time needed to work on a specific project. Be clear in what you can gain by saying yes. Volunteer if it will get your foot in the door, and help you make connections.
- 9) Saying no – work to say no the correct way. Don't turn down opportunities that would help move you into a new area. Say no to other things that prevent you from giving your best to the right things. Learn to do it with grace.
- 10) Pursuit of growth – ask for what you want. Any position worth your time will give back to you. Remember that you will not have all the qualifications for a position – and if you did you would be that person's boss. Don't stand in your own way – apply for stretch positions.

The questions continued after the keynote and keeping your wins was another great suggestion. Dr. Stiegler suggested making a folder to place notes from others including awards and accomplishments. Another great point was don't fall into the trap of undervaluing yourself. Get together with your colleagues and tag someone else in a great post, this will help to build your footprint! Remember it is your task as a job applicant to connect the dots for the hiring manager when they look over your resume.

Marilyn thanked Dr. Stiegler for the inspiring message. She encouraged the participants to expand their networks – refine and to develop their “Board of Directors”! Be a champion “flag flyer”- promote and support your friends and colleagues and let's all use our voices and knowledge to help make our world a better place. Congratulations to all our graduating seniors!

Save the date Monday, October 24, 2022 for the 2022-23 Women In Science Scholars Annual Conference.