



Empowering
Women in Development
New York

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear WID Colleagues:

I have wonderful news for you: WID is bigger and stronger than ever this year, with membership at an all-time high. I see more and more of you taking advantage of all the benefits of membership: networking at workshops and events, calling colleagues for advice, using our coaching services and finding opportunities in our Job Bank. It is a dramatic year for WID, and I am looking forward to meeting even more of you, especially our newest members, at our spring events.

I am thrilled to tell you about our Woman of Achievement honoree this year, Rosanne Haggerty. Many of you will know her as the woman who tackled homelessness in Times Square on a grand scale, turning the decrepit Times Square Hotel into the nation's largest supportive housing residence. As the founder of Common Ground, she now oversees programs that provide housing for more than 2,000 tenants and offer employment opportunities to help formerly homeless individuals return to the work force. She is the winner of a MacArthur "genius" grant as well as awards from the Ashoka and Rockefeller Foundations and her organization advises other major international cities like London, Tokyo and Toronto on homeless issues. We will again celebrate at the Rainbow Room; I hope you will join us on Tuesday, May 19th, as we fete this wonderfully accomplished colleague.

We only have one remaining luncheon before the Woman of Achievement celebration, and I want to encourage you to sign up quickly—we continue to have extremely strong luncheon attendance, even for the event held during a fierce, school-closing March snowstorm.

Let me close by encouraging each of you with significant experience in our field—six years or more—to consider volunteering as a coach for another WID member. The commitment is quite minimal on the part of the coach, but especially at a time like this, the impact you can have is tremendous. I have heard from several of you lately that your coaches have opened your eyes to new career possibilities, and am proud that WID members are banding together to help each other in this way. Please go to the members-only area of the WID website to sign up for coaching, and please stop me at the next WID event or email me to tell me if WID is meeting your needs and how we can better serve you in the year ahead.

With my warmest regards,

Poonam Prasad
Prasad Consulting & Research

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