



November 2009

[www.ndia-tvc.org/wid-tvc](http://www.ndia-tvc.org/wid-tvc)

Newsletter #1

## WID TVC President's Corner



The 2009-2010 WID TVC Board has an exciting year planned for the WID TVC members. We kicked off the year with a great new board at the WID TVC Workshop: Preparing to Support Challenges in National Security with a plethora of great speakers, including MG Susan Lawrence from NETCOM and BG Heidi Brown who came all the way from Iraq to speak to us. Our mentorship program is growing and expanding with a great new board member behind the program this year. Our membership has increased significantly under our membership

director and looks to be another year with receptions and great membership benefits. The programs chair has several planned Industry Updates with some great speakers from all over the nation. One of our most exciting activities for the coming years is our new Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics initiative (STEMi). Please keep an eye on updates on how we are contributing to future generations of our community's workforce. We'll also keep moving forward on community activities, conferences, leadership awards, and more.

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women in Defense, a National Security Organization, and your chapter is one of the most active in the nation and second in size only to the DC chapter, so please continue to support us and our Tennessee Valley Women in Defense.

**Cristina Hinkle** WID-TVC President 2009-2011

### Tennessee Valley Chapter Goals

- Provide professional development and networking opportunities in support of women in defense.
- Support the community and our membership through mentor-protégé programs and other volunteer activities.
- Support the future of the defense community through the WID TVC Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Initiative (STEMi).
- Provide events and forums to increase our membership and organizational impact on the community.
- Support the community and our membership by exhibiting at conferences and relevant events.

- Hold a bi-annual workshop for our membership and the community to learn more about women in defense and the defense industry overall.
- Recognize local women leaders in defense industry through an awards program.

### Tennessee Valley Chapter Vision

"Thriving organization dedicated to development of women as valuable assets to the Department of Defense."



**Gina Best** Past President

### Calendar of Events

See website for detail  
[www.ndia-tvc.org/wid-tvc](http://www.ndia-tvc.org/wid-tvc)

- **Dec. 8 2009**  
Breakfast  
VBC 7:30 – 9:00  
*Dr. John Foulkes Speaking*
- **Jan. 7 2010**  
Program Luncheon  
Marriott  
*BG Horne Speaking*
- **Feb. 2010**  
Membership Reception
- **Mar. 2010**  
JIAMD Summit
- **Apr. /May 2010**  
Mentorship Luncheon
- **Jun. 2010**  
Start Nominations for Next BOD
- **Jul. 2010**  
Membership Reception
- **Aug 16-19 2010**  
SMD Conference

# WID TVC Army Article

**Highlights from:**

**Women's Group Steps Up Support In Defense Fields**

**Oct 23, 2009**

- "Since 1979, Women in Defense has provided members with forums for professional growth." Today, there are 15 chapters.
- There is "no institution more supportive of women then the Department of Defense."
- "Our equipment, training, and evolving policies and procedures must guarantee that the forces in the field will have what they need."
- "We can fight on no battlefield without our dependence on that network, and the information we receive and trust."

*For more on this article visit:*

<http://www.army.mil/-news/2009/10/23/29244-womens-group-steps-up-support-in-defense-fields/>

## WID TVC STEMi

One of the purposes of the Tennessee Valley Chapter (TVC) of Women in Defense (WID) is the support of current WID programs at the national level. One such activity is the encouragement of young people to pursue higher education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) that will lead to careers in national defense and national security. The WID TVC STEM Initiative (STEMi) is intended to provide sponsorship from WID, similar professional organizations, defense contractors, and local community organizations that will fund the creation of STEM projects that will be utilized as educational tools in middle school and high school classrooms in the TVC area. These tools will provide motivation for young aspiring engineers and science majors to stay the course through their higher education and work toward these career fields, providing mentoring opportunities at all levels.

The process by which these tools will be created includes the involvement of WID TVC

area universities who will utilize students in existing engineering design classes to design, develop, and build the tools that have been requested by TVC area middle school / high school science teachers for their classrooms. The projects will be completed during a single semester design class and delivered to the middle school / high school science teachers who requested them for their permanent use. These projects may be upgraded or redesigned for new or additional functions during subsequent semesters.

Benefits are derived at all levels of participation in the STEMi effort. WID TVC benefits by supporting WID national objectives, supporting the local community, and providing the means by which middle/high school students can receive tools that further their interest in pursuing technical careers. The middle/high school teachers benefit by receiving tools that they would not ordinarily have funding in their school budgets to cover. The university teachers benefit by receiving ideas for projects that can be utilized as part

of their class curriculum in their engineering design classes. The university students benefit through the building of these tools and the presentations they must make in the scheduled reviews by improving their technical writing skills, public speaking abilities, engineering skills, and ethical decision making.

WID TVC's first STEMi project was completed during the 2009 Summer semester by a student team in the engineering design class of Dr Christina Carmen in the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Dept at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. The student team designed and built a fluid dynamics demonstrator and delivered it to Guntersville High School. WID TVC is in process of securing additional funding to sponsor more projects during the 2010 Winter semester.

**Debbie Fraley**

