

# 2020 SUMMARY

*Despite the year's challenges,  
WiSE continued to provide (and expand!)  
programming and support for women in STEM*



For more than 20 years, Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) has proudly supported the recruitment, persistence, and advancement of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

Led by women faculty and professional staff, WiSE serves a total of 19 STEM departments at Syracuse University. Our diverse programming and events offer women in STEM a wide variety of networking and learning opportunities, as well as support, encouragement, and inspiration. Through research-based strategies and an active community of mentors and peers, we help women students and faculty achieve their professional goals.



Myers-Briggs Assessment on February 14, 2020

WiSE offers programming for women in STEM at all levels—for undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, and faculty. **In 2020, WiSE hosted a total of 70 events!**

## New in 2020!

**Online Programming:** When in-person events were paused in March due to the pandemic, WiSE quickly shifted to online programming—continuing to effectively reach and connect women in STEM over Zoom and GroupMe (a messaging app).

**Pilot Career Preparation Program (CPP):** In September, WiSE launched a pilot one-year certificate program for women of color sophomores and juniors majoring in STEM disciplines. The initiative aims to provide participants with opportunities and resources for developing a roadmap for academic and career success. Participants are expected to attend professional development and networking events offered by WiSE, as well as complete an early portfolio

WiSE has been a commitment, but the value I've gained from being a part of this group has been so important. Thank you for continuing to provide such great sessions for us, even as Syracuse University has moved online.

-WiSE-FPP event participant  
(via evaluation survey)

package for faculty review and feedback. Sixteen students were selected for the 2020-2021 program. For more information, see this Syracuse University News [article](#).

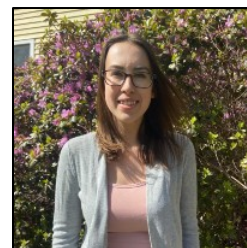
## Programs for undergraduate students

### **WiSE Women of Color in STEM (WWoCS):**

Established in 2014, this program continued to bring women students of color together with graduate mentors and faculty, fostering community and a sense of belonging. The following WWoCS sessions were offered in 2020:

- Social Hour at Citrus: Networking Focus  
January 16, 2020
- Personal Statement Drop-In Help  
January 22, 2020
- De-Stress for Spring Semester Success  
January 29, 2020
- Summer Research Opportunities/Internships  
February 27, 2020
- Volunteering at the Museum of Science and Technology (MOST): Women in STEM Showcase  
March 7, 2020
- Virtual Social Hours  
Multiple dates (April 2020)
- WWoCS Graduate Mentors Welcome  
August 27, 2020
- WWoCS Fall Welcome  
September 9, 2020
- Amplifying Your Voice: Strategies for "Talking Back"  
October 8, 2020
- Social Hour/Networking with Graduate Mentors  
October 21, 2020
- Career Panel with STEM Alumni  
November 2, 2020
- Community Engagement and Stress Reduction with Hendricks Chapel  
December 10, 2020

Percentage of respondents rating WWoCS programs above average or excellent on evaluations: 88%



Left: Amplifying Your Voice: Strategies for "Talking Back" on October 8, 2020

Above: Norma Slepecky Prize winners Julia Riley (left) and Heather Sosnoski (right)

**Norma Slepecky Undergraduate Research Prize:** The Slepecky ceremony and guest lecture were unfortunately canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. The award committee, chaired by Dr. Natalie Russo, still reviewed applications, and two students were selected for their excellence in research. Julia Riley received the first place prize, and Heather Sosnoski took second place (both biochemistry and neuroscience majors). To learn more, see this Syracuse University News [article](#).

## Programs for graduate students

### WiSE Future Professionals Program (WiSE-FPP):

First offered in 2007, WiSE-FPP is a two-year professional development and support initiative for women graduate students in STEM. For program year 2020-2021, 55 WiSE-FPP Associates were selected—the largest cohort ever accepted! The following WiSE-FPP sessions were offered in 2020:

- Breakfast with Dr. Sarah Woolf-King  
January 22, 2020
- Myers-Briggs Assessment  
February 14, 2020
- Writing an Effective CV/Resume  
February 24, 2020
- Portfolio Reviewer Panel  
April 14, 2020
- WiSE-FPP Fall Welcome & Orientation  
September 16, 2020
- A Conversation with Ombuds Neal Powless: Conflict & Culture  
October 13, 2020
- STEM Women Faculty Panel  
November 9, 2020
- Social Hour/Networking with Peers  
November 18, 2020
- Group Screening & Film Discussion (Picture a Scientist)  
December 14 & 15, 2020

Percentage of respondents rating WiSE-FPP programs above average or excellent on evaluations: 90%

**Scientific Writing Workshop:** In 2020, WiSE, in collaboration with the Graduate Student Organization, held two workshops with Dr. Elizabeth Paley of Duke University for graduate students in STEM.

## Programs for postdocs

**WiSE Postdocs:** WiSE continued to bring women postdocs in STEM together for valuable learning, networking, and mentorship opportunities. Informal meetups for supportive, open discussion were added this year—with great success. The following WiSE Postdocs sessions were offered in 2020:

- Scientific Writing Workshop  
January 8, 2020
- Speed Networking  
January 24, 2020
- Peer Writing Group  
Multiple dates (spring/fall 2020)
- Grant Writing Panel  
February 28, 2020
- Pathway to NIH Award  
April 7, 2020
- Negotiating Strategies  
April 24, 2020



Informal Meetup/Picnic on July 10, 2020

A lot of things that the panelists mentioned were very helpful because of how they resonated with my current situation.

-WiSE Postdocs event participant  
(via evaluation survey)

Note: WiSE-FPP Associates and faculty were often invited to WiSE Postdocs programming; and CPP Associates, women postdocs, and faculty were often invited to WiSE-FPP events—building community across WiSE programs.

- Informal Meetups/Picnics  
Multiple dates (spring/summer 2020)
- Let Your Voice Be Heard: Effective Online Communication  
July 22, 2020
- Info Sessions: STEM Early Career Development Grant Application  
August 12 & 26, 2020
- WiSE Postdocs Welcome  
September 25, 2020
- Informal Meetups/Coffee Breaks  
Multiple dates (fall 2020)
- Developing & Utilizing Self-Awareness to Fulfill Your Potential  
October 23, 2020
- Conflict & Communication Part 1: Conflict Management  
November 13, 2020
- Discussion/Reflection  
December 11, 2020

## Programs for faculty

**WiSE Faculty:** WiSE continued to foster a supportive, professional network for women faculty in STEM at the University. On November 6, 2020, WiSE hosted a Junior Faculty Lunch that included a presentation on resiliency strategies and small group discussion. In addition, WiSE provided Faculty Leadership Development Grants and Faculty COVID Resource Grants in 2020.

The speaker was excellent. She was human and personable and honest about her struggle and the struggle many women face in STEM.

-WWoCS event participant  
(via evaluation survey)



Volunteering at the MOST: Women in STEM Showcase on March 7, 2020

## 2020-2021 WiSE leadership and staff

### Faculty Co-Directors

Dr. Shobha Bhatia  
Dr. Katharine (Kate) Lewis

### WiSE Women of Color in STEM & Career Preparation Program

Dr. Dawn Johnson (lead)  
Dr. Michelle Blum  
Graduate Mentors: Ashley Douglass, Megha Jayachandran, Sucheta Lahiri, Isabel Munoz, Eloise Eyo Parry-Nweye, and Momina Toseef

### Norma Slepecky Undergraduate Research Prize & Lecture

Dr. Shobha Bhatia  
Dr. Katharine (Kate) Lewis  
Sharon Alestalo

### General Undergraduate Programs

Dr. Katie Becklin

### WiSE Future Professionals Program

Dr. Shikha Nangia (lead)  
Dr. Heather Coleman  
Dr. Brittany Jakubiak  
Dr. Sucheta Soundarajan

### Postdoc Mentoring

Dr. Samantha England  
Dr. Huan Gu  
Dr. Susan Parks

### Faculty Mentoring

Dr. Julie Hasenwinkel

### Leadership Development

Dr. Eleanor Maine (lead)  
Dr. Qinru Qiu  
Dr. Amy Criss

### Professional Staff

Sharon Alestalo, Program Director  
Amanda Latreille, Program Support Coordinator  
Isabel Munoz, Graduate Program Assistant  
Kate Kemnitz, Undergraduate Program Assistant