

ADVANCE Florida Network Women in STEM Scholars (AFN-WISS)

Overview and Procedures

ADVANCE Florida Network (AFN)

The Advance Florida Network is funded by the National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant awarded to Florida International University. It provides mentoring, networking, collaboration, and professional opportunities to tenured and tenure-track STEM women faculty and STEM women postdoctoral fellows among the three urban public research universities that comprise the Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Research Universities: Florida International University (FIU), University of Central Florida (UCF), and University of South Florida (USF). The goal of the AFN is to encourage collaboration and the sharing of resources in the areas of recruitment, promotion, retention, and leadership for women. Check out more information about the FIU ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Grant [here](#).

Women in STEM Scholars (AFN-WISS Program)

Under the AFN-WISS program, women tenure-line STEM faculty and women Postdoctoral Associates can receive funding in support to conduct research seminars at STEM departments from any of the metropolitan universities (USF/UCF/FIU) other than their current institution to develop research collaborations, build professional networks and to increase their career visibility. Each applicant is required to have made contact with a desired “host” at the institution to be visited that will facilitate the Visiting Scholar’s schedule and presentation(s). We particularly encourage new collaborations and anticipate the scholar’s program to be a multi-year program. Please note, your host should be a tenure-line faculty member and can be a woman or a man. Find out more about the application and the AFN-WISS program by clicking [here](#).

AFN-WISS is supported by the provosts of each metropolitan university, who contribute to the NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant awarded to Florida International University. Funding awarded will cover the cost of travel (including two hotel nights) and expenses.

AFN Committee Members

Florida International University

Caroline Simpson, College of Arts, Sciences, and Education Equity Advisor, Professor,
Physics, FIU | simpsonc@fiu.edu | 305-348-1565 | Primera Casa (PC) 230

Daniela Radu, Associate Professor, Mechanical and Materials Engineering, FIU
dradu@fiu.edu | 305-348-4506 | Engineering Campus (EC) 3472

Suzanna Rose, Associate Provost, Office to Advance Women, Equity & Diversity, FIU
srose@fiu.edu | 305-348-1975 | Primera Casa (PC) 230

Please direct questions about AFN-WISS to advance@fiu.edu and your AFN representatives.

University of Central Florida

Debra Reinhart, Associate Vice President, Research and Scholarship, UCF
debra.reinhart@ucf.edu | 407-823-2315 | Millican Hall (MH) 243

Cherie Yestrebksy, Department Chair and Professor, Physics, UCF
Cherie.Yestrebksy@ucf.edu | 407-823-2135 | Physical Sciences Building (PSB) 230

University of South Florida

Susan Bell, Professor, Integrative Biology, USF
sbell@usf.edu | 813-974-2542 | Science Center (SCA) 110

Norma Alcantar, Professor, Chemical & Biomedical Engineering, USF
norma@usf.edu | 813-974-8009 | Engineering Building II (ENB) 0118

Visit Guidelines and Procedures

General Guidelines

The AFN-WISS Visiting Scholar and host will work together to develop a schedule for the visit that should reflect the goal of aiding the Visiting Scholar in developing research collaborations, building networks, and increasing their professional visibility. Before scheduling any meetings, the Visiting Scholar and host should discuss the Scholar's research goals, professional development concerns, and funding opportunities. The Scholar and host are encouraged to create an agenda suitable for both parties. If appropriate and relevant, the Scholar and host are encouraged to develop a two-year plan for collaborations and/or follow-up visits. Funding is available for travel (including up to two hotel nights) and expenses. A checklist of steps that you can use to plan the visit is provided below.

It is **required** that each Visiting Scholar conduct a colloquium, seminar, or other talk on their current research to the appropriate audience (i.e. faculty, graduate students, post docs). It is also **required** that the Visiting Scholar meets with the AFN representative at the institution they are visiting. Hosts are also encouraged to meet with the Visiting Scholar. Other potential agenda items are: meeting with other faculty in the department to discuss potential research collaborations, networking with those working in related or complementary research areas, or meeting with potential mentors. See listings above.

After the Visiting Scholar has completed their travel, the Scholar should schedule a meeting with one or both AFN representatives from their HOME institution. See listing above. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the AFN representatives of the usefulness of the visit. Once travel is completed, hosts AND visitors are encouraged to complete a follow-up survey to provide feedback about the AFN-WISS program.

University Rates for Accommodations

AFN provides up to \$700 for travel, lodging and per diem expenses. Please contact your home

Please direct questions about AFN-WISS to advance@fiu.edu and your AFN representatives.

campus representative to coordinate travel expenses. Below is a listing of approved hotels with university rates. **Note:** You must ask for the university rate BEFORE booking.

- 1) FIU: http://finance.fiu.edu/purchasing/4contra_master_hotel_agreements.html
We recommend the Comfort Inn Suites Miami or the Pullman Hotel – they are fairly close to campus.
- 2) USF: <https://www.usf.edu/intousf/arriving/usf-area-hotels.aspx>
- 3) UCF: <https://www.ce.ucf.edu/Hotels>

List of AFN-WISS campus representatives for coordination of travel expenses

FIU: Cynthia Silva-Cruz (csilvacr@fiu.edu) | 305-348-5485

UCF: Fran Ragsdale (Fran.Ragsdale@ucf.edu) | 407-823-1113

USF: Norma Alcantar (norma@usf.edu) | 813-974-8009

Please direct questions about AFN-WISS to advance@fiu.edu and your AFN representatives.