Spotlight on STEM Women

Dr. Suzanne Seleem joined the Department of Natural Sciences at Central State University (CSU) as an Assistant Professor in 2004; she was promoted to Associate Professor in 2007. Dr. Seleem received her M.Sc. in Solid State Chemistry from the American University in Cairo, and her Ph.D. in Surface Chemistry from The University of London. A previous Equity Advisor for the LEADER Consortium, Dr. Seleem will be transitioning into the role of Co-PI for her institution in September. Dr. Seleem has received research funding from the National Science Foundation multiple times, in addition to other funding awards from the Iowa Science Foundation, the National Institute of Justice, the National Institutes of Health, and other federal agencies. At CSU, she teaches courses in her area of expertise, including General Chemistry, Forensic Science, Analytical and Physical Chemistry.

Dr. Seleem is a member of the American Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK. An active member of her profession and Chair of her Department, she also finds time to volunteer in the community, including service to the Rotary Club, Red Cross and other local agencies.

What are your current research interests?

“I am a physical/analytic chemist with interests in forensic chemistry. My research interests lie in environmental forensic chemistry. I hope to shed more light on industrial pollution and its long term devastating effects.”

What do you like most about being a scientist?

“Persist ethically and you will prevail.”

What would you say to women considering a career in your field?

“Inspiring others to become dedicated scientists/educators is the most satisfaction that I get from my career.”

“Persist ethically and you will prevail.”

Taking Initiative:

The Daily Grind—Coffee, Conversation, Community

Let’s face it, academic life is demanding, characterized by expectations of “heroic stamina” to fulfill multiple roles. The LEADER Consortium would like to invite all faculty to join a monthly discussion of topics key to meeting the demands of life in the academy. The LEADER Consortium’s Program Director, Dr. Stephanie Goodwin, will jump-start the conversation with a topic of interest to faculty, provide coffee and light refreshments, and facilitate discussion to identify strategies to promote faculty success.

Come and grab a free cup of coffee and light refreshments while we “percolate” on issues that matter to STEM faculty.

Topics on the agenda for this year include:

- Academic Juggling Act; R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Dealing with Student Incivility; and, I’m Funded! Now What?
- Our topic for September will be: Mentoring & Coaching: Scaffolding for Academic Career Success.
  - AFIT—9/21, 2:30-4pm at Einstein’s Bagels, WPAFB
  - CSU—9/15, 9:30-11am, Beans-n-Cream, Centerville
  - UD—9/21, 12-1:30pm, Women’s Center Lounge, 2nd floor, Alumni Hall
  - WSU—9/13, 10-11:30am, The Wright Cup, Student Union

Future dates & topics will be announced by e-mail and posted on our calendar: http://www.wright.edu/leader/
experts on issues of equity in the academy as well as workplace policy and the law. A review of current policies culminated in the groups’ identification of several important needs for the coming year. As a result, our strategic plan focuses on consensually supported consortium goals that respect institutional cultures and the needs of partner institutions.

In addition to developing the framework for annual strategic planning, the group also engaged in discussions about participation and inclusivity. Given the importance of both to our mission and values, we will be working hard to promote awareness and participation in activities throughout the year.

Of course, there was also time for team-building and strengthening relations as well. Despite working through lunches and several dinners, participants found time to learn more about one another, share a few laughs, and even ride a trolley car. Overall, participants reported the retreat was a successful opportunity to focus our energies and make significant progress in planning for the coming year.

Our thanks go out to the administrators who made time in their busy schedules to attend. Their active participation and contributions were invaluable to the retreat’s success!

Contact the Consortium
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Wouldn’t You Like to be a LEADER Too?
The LEADER Consortium is busy working on a number of policy initiatives, programs and activities. Participation and inclusivity are key to our values and mission, and to that end, we welcome participation and suggestions from across the academy.

Lend your talents and be a leader for equity in the academy by joining a committee, suggesting programs/events, or just voicing your concerns. We’re here to help you make a difference. For more information, contact the LEADER Office at: leader@wright.edu.

LEADER Updates:
Institutionalization & Planning Retreat, Center for WorkLife Law, San Francisco, CA

The LEADER Consortium’s key personnel invited upper-administrators from partner institutions to join them in a training and planning retreat held in July at the Center for WorkLife Law (CWL) in San Francisco, CA. Having recently responded to the NSF Third-Year Site Visit report, the team was eager to get to work on strategic planning for the coming year. Over a two-and-a-half day series of meetings, the group participated in important discussions about gender equity and family-friendly workplace policies. Our discussions were enhanced and facilitated by scholarly presentations from Dr. Joan Williams (Hastings School of the Law) and Dr. MaryAnn Mason (Berkeley University), experts on issues of equity in the academy as well as workplace policy and the law. A review of current policies culminated in the groups’ identification of several important needs for the coming year. As a result, our strategic plan focuses on consensually supported consortium goals that respect institutional cultures and the needs of partner institutions.

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Join the LEADER Consortium listserv by registering on our website: www.wright.edu/leader/

Upcoming Events
Sept. 13th--Talking Shop with Dr. Chad Mirkin of Northwestern University, Member of President Obama’s Council of Advisors for Science and Technology. 12:15-1:30pm, Joshi Research Center Atrium, WSU.


Coming Soon — Keys to Academics’ Success: Research Funding & Productivity. A day-long event at WSU featuring federal funding agency program officers, workshops, speakers, and more.

Back Row, from left to right: Dr. Steve Angle, WSU; Dr. Willie Houston, CSU; Dr. Suzanne Seleem, CSU; Dr. Malcolm Daniels, UD; Dr. Peggy DesAutels, UD; Dr. Stephanie Goodwin, WSU; Dr. Paul Benson, UD; Front Row: Dr. Paul Wolf, AFIT, Dr. Tamera Schneider, WSU; Dr. Heidi Ries, AFIT, Dr. David Goldstein, WSU, and Dr. Kefu Xue, WSU.