



NEWS RELEASE

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Sandia Executive Vice President, Joan Woodard, Honored for Promoting Women in Science

Albuquerque, NM (October 7, 2009) – The New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering (NMNWSE), in cooperation with the NM Commission on the Status of Women, honors **Joan Woodard, Executive Vice President and Deputy Laboratory Director for National Security Technologies and Systems for Sandia National Laboratories, the *Third Annual IMPACT! Award.***

The award, given to a New Mexico woman for her extraordinary efforts in encouraging and helping women enter and succeed in science, technology, engineering and math as well as promoting networking and communication among women in these careers.

“Joan continually champions for women in non-traditional fields,” states Maria Elena Alvarez, award nominator. “Her outreach and visibility extends broadly – she is a life member of the Society of Women Engineers, on the Planning Committee for Lockheed Martin’s Annual Women’s Leadership Forum, and a member of the New Mexico Women’s Forum.”

During her tenure at Sandia National Laboratories, Ms. Woodard has mentored many women in engineering and technology. She is currently actively mentoring four women, and also conducts “Walk and Talks” to speak with women in management about their accomplishment and issues. Her outreach includes presenting to the Laboratories’ new hires on “Research, Technology and Career Opportunities at Sandia National Laboratories;” chartering, sponsoring, and acting as lead speaker at a Sandia Women in Management Workshop; commissioning a Workforce Study to assess issues, particularly for women and minorities; and serving as a member and champion for the Sandia Women’s Action Network.

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The NMNWSE began in 1975 with a core group of faculty and staff from UNM wanting to reach out to women in science as a group. Since then, the Network has worked to encourage and help women enter and succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers and promote networking and communication among members by providing regularly scheduled meetings, talks and other local activities.

The NM Commission on the Status of Women was created by state statute to increase the knowledge of the rights, responsibilities and interests of women and girls in New Mexico and to preserve women's history and contributions to our state.

For further information on NMNWSE or the IMPACT! Award, please visit www.nmnwse.org

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