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May 2023

Register Now – June 8 Virtual Gathering – Creating Safe, Inviting, and Welcoming Workspaces

[Register now](#) to join the Women's Forest Congress on June 8, 2023, from 2:00 - 3:30pm ET (1:00-2:30pm CT, 12:00-1:30pm MT, 11:00am-12:30pm PT) as we continue to live out the WFC Declaration from the October 2022 event. Throughout June and during the June 8th virtual gathering, we'll **focus on Resolution #6: CREATE a safe, inviting, and welcoming workspace for all resulting in greater wellness, increased retention, higher productivity, improved creativity, and heart-centered decision-making.** Join us as we look at, share, and support ways to create a safe, inviting, and welcoming workspace for all. Like all WFC virtual gatherings, come ready to be inspired, then share and learn with others during networking time.

WFC Needs Your Support

WFC is truly a grassroots effort and currently not under any one organization's umbrella. We were formed together by women in the for-profit, non-profit, public agency, and academic sectors from varying backgrounds and diverse perspectives. And we are committed to continuing.

Your financial support is needed and critical to continue the momentum. Your immediate support will directly support and ensure the continued success of the Women's Forest Congress movement. Throughout 2023, the Women's Forest Congress will engage and act upon the [Declaration and 10 resolutions](#) from the October 2022 event. Specific activities will include but are not limited to WFC strategic engagement and operations, ongoing communications and marketing, quarterly virtual gatherings, and supporting the volunteer-led Steering Committee, Advisory Council, and Working Groups, as well as the overall movement to position and learn from women as leaders in the forest community.

We are exploring options for the future, and all the options require some level of resources. **If you or your organization is interested in supporting the Congress, especially in this time of transition, check out our [sponsorship prospectus](#), [donate today](#) or [reach out to us](#).**

The WFC Leadership application/nomination window closed on April 30. WFC received 30 applications for the three open Steering Committee seats and three open Advisory Council seats. **WFC is very grateful for the applicants and their willingness to serve, which is a testament to this dedicated and generous community.** The Steering Committee is reviewing applications and the applicants' statements of interest, preparing recommendations for the Advisory Council's review and consideration. We hope to notify applicants of the final selections in June.

WFC Blog

This month we feature a [blog](#) by the **members of the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), who participated in the 2022 Women's Forest Congress in-person and virtually.** They share thoughts on storytelling, empowerment, and allyship at the Women's Forest Congress. IFSA representatives included: Apsana Kafle and Kamana Poudel (Regional Representatives from North America), both from Nepal and made up the in-person delegation; Theresa Klara Loch from Germany, Barbara Öllerer from Austria, Kadijatu Sheriff, Clarissa Chimeremeze Enyi from Nigeria, and Baliqueez Adebisi from Nigeria all joined the event virtually.

Be sure to check out our full suite of [WFC blogs](#). And if you're interested in being a guest blogger, please [let us know](#). We are particularly interested in individuals and organizations who can share how they are living out the WFC Declaration's 10 resolutions, either in part or in whole.



What's Happening Across the WFC Community?

As with any grassroots movement, relationship building and community are critical to success. WFC is no different. We are grateful for our entire community and network. Here's how some of these community members are taking WFC "on the road."

On April 19, 2023, **over 40 women and allies gathered at Colorado State University (CSU) to have a local celebration of the Women's Forest Congress (WFC).** Professionals and students who attended the in-person event in MN in 2022 and other professionals shared

networking. Multiple employers came to the event. Dr. Kickey Peterson, Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion in the Warner College of Natural Resources (WCNR) at CSU gave remarks. He **encouraged attendees to pay it forward and help others to feel appreciated, valued, and welcomed.** He said **if you attended the WFC, you must keep that good work going and help others;** he encouraged us to **do something with that opportunity.** Faculty, staff, students, and local professionals plan to keep the momentum going and hold local gatherings a few times yearly. Partners who helped host this event included: WCNR and Diversity & Inclusion Program, CO/WY and Longs Peak Society of American Foresters, USDA Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Front Range Community College, and the CSU Honor's Program. We also plan to establish a student organization celebrating women and other minoritized gender identities in environmental fields. Stay tuned for more updates from Colorado!

We'd love to hear about other events within the WFC community. [Reach out](#) to us with your ideas and event locations/dates.

WFC Resolution of the Month

Throughout 2023, the WFC will feature a "Resolution of the Month." In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, we're featuring Resolution #3 throughout May - **"BUILD workplace systems that support mental health coverage, and include training and programs promoting healthy lifestyles, such as family leave, flexible work schedules, generous vacation plans, social opportunities, and holistic wellness programs."** [Check out](#) the WFC Declaration to learn how the Women's Forest Congress seeks to build supportive workplace systems and environments. Does your organization have an example of how they are living out this resolution? We'd love to hear more and share with the WFC community. Connect via [email](#), tag us on social media (links below), or join our [LinkedIn Networking Group](#) to start a conversation.

Fun Fact of the Month

In 2015, The New York Times released a story about how fewer women ran big companies than men named John. Eight years later, [research](#) shows that no single men's name matches the record number of 41 women who run Fortune 500 firms today. A small victory on the long road to greater diversity at the top, and we'll take it.

THERE IS A NEED - ARGUABLY TODAY MORE THAN EVER - FOR DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES TO HELP ENSURE THE HEALTH AND FUTURE OF FORESTS.

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