

LESLIE WILKINS, BIO

Ms. Wilkins is honored to serve as the current chair of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, she is seeking appointment for an additional term representing the Maui seat.

Current Employment: Maui Economic Development Board, Inc. (MEDB) Vice President and Program Director, 1999 – present

Professional Experience:

In October 1999, Ms. Wilkins was hired to design, launch, and lead implementation of MEDB's Women in Technology Program, a pilot and demonstration project, developed to engage more girls, women, Native Hawaiians and other underrepresented groups into the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) pipeline. In June 2000, she was elected by MEDB's Board of Directors to her current position of Vice President. She continues to lead MEDB's STEM education pipeline initiatives, overseeing the expansion from a Maui pilot, to a statewide program with an annual reach of more than 45,000 participants. She has served as principal investigator for \$18 million in federal funding, including grants from 8 different federal agencies.

Prior to joining MEDB, she consulted—serving a broad nonprofit client base—providing program development services, advising on revenue diversification strategies, and proposal writing. Ms. Wilkins maintained a five-year consulting relationship with MEDB, before accepting the Women in Tech Program Director position.

Before her consulting work, she spent ten years in Hawaii's commercial banking industry. Her experience included operations supervision, branch lending, budgetary development/oversight, and personnel management.

Collaborations & Affiliations:

Ms. Wilkins is an experienced advocate for women, workplace diversity, and equity issues. She was appointed in 2011 to serve on the Hawaii State Commission of the Status of Women and is currently serving as its chair. She further chairs Maui County's Workforce Investment Board and serves as a member of the state Workforce Development Council. Ms. Wilkins is a member of the University of Hawaii's College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council; a board member of the YWCA of Oahu; serves on the Career and Technical Educational Coordinating Advisory Council; and is a founding advisory board member to the Lt. Governor's after-school R.E.A.C.H. initiative.

She has served in state and national leadership roles with the Business & Professional Women's Organization (BPW) for more than two decades. After completing her term as BPW/Hawaii State President in 1992, she was recruited for national leadership and in 1994 she was elected to BPW/USA's Executive Committee as the Recording Secretary, followed by Vice President, and President-Elect. In July 2001, she was installed as BPW/USA's National President and BPW Foundation Chair. She remains active with Business & Professional Women where she serves as national trustee for the BPW Foundation. She is tapped frequently to provide diversity and equity technical assistance to education partners and employers.

Honors include the 2001 SBA Women's Business Advocate Award for Hawaii and Federal Region IX; the 2005 International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Performance Award for a Multi-Year Local Economic Development Initiative; a 2010 Maui County Woman of Achievement Award; and the 2013 SBA Veteran Small Business Champion for Hawaii.

Select Publications & Synergistic Activities [Please note papers are collaborations with multiple co-authors, who are listed on all publications.]

American Society of Engineering Educators

- 2004 – IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE TO INCREASE ENGINEERING DIVERSITY
- 2005 – EARLY AND SUSTAINED GENDER EQUITY PROGRAMS ENRICH PIPELINE OF FEMALE ENGINEERS
- 2005 – EXCITE CAMP 2004: AN UPDATED LOOK AT INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN TRADITION
- 2007 – MENTORNET'S WISCONSIN AND HAWAII STATEWIDE INITIATIVES
- 2007 – ALIGNING INDIGENOUS CULTURE WITH SCIENCE
- 2008 – SERVICE LEARNING: COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL VALUES THAT ENGAGE UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS INTO THE STEM PIPELINE
- 2011 – CULTIVATING GEOSPATIAL ENGINEERS IN A POPULATION UNDERREPRESENTED IN STEM INDUSTRIES
- 2011 – ENGINEERING ENERGY SOLUTIONS: FACILITATING HANDS-ON DESIGN PROJECTS FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS --VIA A STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS
- 2014 – ENERGY INQUIRY: HANDS-ON, INQUIRY LEARNING METHODS TO ENHANCE STEM LEARNING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Institute for Women's Policy Research Conference

- 2005 – KEEPING GIRLS ENGAGED IN THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH (STEM) EDUCATION AND CAREER PIPELINE

Society of Women Engineers

- 2003 – EARLY AND SUSTAINED GENDER EQUITY PROGRAMS ENRICH PIPELINE OF FEMALE ENGINEERS
- 2003 – WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY (WIT): A PARADIGM FOR WORKING TOWARD SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
- 2003 – RECRUITING WOMEN TO THE TRADES: MARKETING STRATEGIES THAT WORK

Women in Engineering Program Advocates Network

- 2003 – A PARADIGM FOR WORKING TOWARD SYSTEM CHANGE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
- 2005 – ENGAGING MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BY ALIGNING CULTURE AND SCIENCE
- 2006 – ISISHAWAII: THE POWER OF ONE PLUS ONE BRINGS GIRLS INTO THE SCIENCE AND ENGAGEMENT PIPELINE
- 2009 – KAMA'AINA COME HOME RECRUITING ENGINEERING TALENT WITH HAWAII ROOTS
- 2010 – CONNECTING STUDENTS TO THEIR FUTURE

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.,

- 2010 – HAWAII LEADS THE GEOSPATIAL WAY

Association for Gender Equity Leadership in Education

- 2008 – AGELE CONFERENCE: WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY: BUILDING SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN STEM EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT