



DEOMI

DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



NEWS RELEASE

DEOMI RELEASES 2013 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH POSTER

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PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of National Women's History Month, celebrated each year during the month of March, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) proudly announces the availability of original artwork (please see the high-resolution image accompanying this news release.)

National Women's History Month is an opportunity to honor and celebrate historic achievements of women. By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.

Each year National Women's History Month employs a unifying theme and recognizes national honorees whose work and lives testify to that theme. For 2013, the theme is ***“Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.”***

According to the National Women's History Project website, although women now outnumber men in American colleges nationwide, the reversal of the gender gap is a very recent phenomenon. The fight to learn was a valiant struggle waged by many tenacious women—across years and across cultures. After the American Revolution, the notion of education as a safeguard for democracy created opportunities for girls to gain a basic education—based largely on the premise that, as mothers, they would nurture not only the bodies but also the minds of (male) citizens and leaders. The concept that educating women meant educating mothers endured in America for many years, at all levels of education.

In the history of scientific research and discovery, women's contributions have often been overlooked, undervalued, omitted from textbooks, skipped over for awards, and even falsely attributed to their male peers. Young girls today who are captivated by Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are not only facing the stereotype that boys are naturally better than girls at math and science — but girls also lack historical role models to guide their aspirations and show that girls just like them have gone on to do great things in STEM.

As stated on their website, <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/honorees2012.php>, The National Women's History Project has announced the names of 18 honorees for National Women's History Month 2013. The 18 women chosen are all extraordinary visionaries and role models in the STEM fields, where women are still noticeably underrepresented. The 2013 honorees represent a remarkable range of accomplishments and a wide diversity of specialties including medicine, robotics, computer programming, atmospheric chemistry, architecture and primatology. These women's lives and work span centuries of American history and come from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.



DEOMI's illustrator, Mr. Peter Hemmer, shared his artistic thoughts about the creation of this year's poster, saying "I incorporated an engineering drawing, mathematic equations, circuit board and code into the design covering the technical aspect of STEM." "The dandelion was a fun way to illustrate the millions of ideas and possibilities bursting forth from innovation and imagination by women in these fields."

All DEOMI observance month poster files are in the public domain unless otherwise indicated.

For more information about National Women's History Month, please visit The National Women's History Project at: <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/history.php>

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