

WITI Inducts Five into 2004 Hall of Fame Women Inducted for their Significant Contributions to Technology

Los Angeles, Calif. – May 26, 2004 – WITI (Women in Technology International), the premiere global organization helping tech-savvy women attain their professional goals, today announced the 2004 Hall of Fame recipients, who will be formally inducted during a ceremony to be held June 8 during WITI's 10th National Conference in San Jose, Calif.

The WITI Foundation launched the annual Hall of Fame in 1996 to honor, promote and recognize the outstanding contributions women make to technology that result in a positive impact on society. Every year, inductees are chosen by an independent, prestigious panel of judges. This year, inductees were selected for their impressive strides in the fields of agricultural biotechnology, nuclear energy, database management and semiconductors.

“We invite everyone to join us to honor this year's Hall of Fame recipients. Each of these women deserves our recognition and acknowledgement for their achievements and contributions,” said WITI founder and chairwoman Carolyn Leighton. “They are exemplary professionals whose accomplishments have far reaching impact on the advancement of science and technology in a range of applications.”

This year's recipients are:

Dr. Mary-Dell Chilton, principle Syngenta Fellow, Syngenta: Chilton is a winner of the Franklin Medal for making a discovery that launched the field of agricultural biotechnology. Her pioneering work led directly to the industry of genetic engineering of foods and plants. Chilton has received two medals from the American Chemical Society and is a Fellow in the American Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Gail de Planque, consultant: de Planque has made a broad impact in the global nuclear energy field. She is highly respected and in great demand as a consultant on atomic energy issues. de Planque also played a key role in recognition of diversity in engineering, leading to the formation of the National Academy of Engineering's Diversity Forum.

Dr. Pat Selinger, Fellow and vice president of data management architecture and technology, IBM: Selinger has made extensive advances in relational database management, particularly in System R and her invention of cost-based query optimization, which made relational databases practical. Selinger pioneered a unique database technology institute at IBM whose success has become a model for rapid pipelining of research technology into software products. She currently drives the architecture and technology strategy for IBM's information management team. Selinger has been honored with top national awards for her endeavors and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Judy Shaw, manager, Silicon Technology Department, Texas Instruments: Shaw's efforts in Texas Instruments' semiconductor business segment led to the development of state-of-the-art fabrication facilities, as well as bridged the manufacturing and development functions within Texas Instruments. Her work now sets the standard for the general semiconductor industry.

Dr. Susan Solomon, research scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Solomon is credited with making among the first measurements in Antarctica discovering the effect of chlorofluorocarbons in creating the ozone hole, leading to a reduction in the production of these chemicals. Later, an Antarctic glacier was named after her to recognize her contributions. She has received many prestigious awards, among them "Scientist of the Year," National Medal of Science and three honorary PhDs. Solomon is a member of both the U.S. National and French Academy of Sciences.

If you are interested in attending the WITI National Conference and/or the WITI Hall of Fame dinner, please go to witi.com or call 818-788-WITI (9484).

About WITI

Carolyn Leighton founded WITI in 1989 as an email network for women aspiring to break through the "glass ceiling". Today WITI has grown to be the number one premiere global association, helping tech-savvy women attain their professional goals and dreams by providing connections, resources, opportunities and a supportive environment of women committed to helping each other. Along with its Global Networks throughout the U.S. and in Hong Kong, Ireland, UK, Australia, Mexico and other countries, WITI delivers value through its powerful alliances and partnerships that connect WITI women to powerful resources designed to help them succeed. www.witi.com. Build. Empower. Inspire.