

The Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium Hosted 14th Annual *Women in Space Science Award Celebration*

WHAT: On May 12, 2016, the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium held its annual *Women in Space Science Award Celebration* honoring Professor Wendy L. Freedman from The University of Chicago. For fourteen years, the Women's Board has recognized trailblazing women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) with the goal of inspiring young women to pursue careers in these disciplines.

WHO: President of the Women's Board, Linda Gerstman, and Chair of the *Women in Space Science Award Celebration*, Erika Lautman Bartelstein along with Co-Chair Pamela Pohl, hosted approximately 350 guests for a VIP reception, luncheon and keynote presentation given by this year's honoree.

Guests at the luncheon celebrated Professor Freedman, who spoke about her career path, her experience working on the Giant Magellan Telescope as well as the importance of pursuing one's interests regardless of popular opinion. The highlight of the event was the student program immediately following the luncheon held at the Adler. Approximately 250 young women from Chicago-area schools, enjoyed an inspiring talk and Q&A opportunity with Wendy L. Freedman and an afternoon of engaging STEM workshops with Adler educators and volunteers.

WHERE: The Drake Hotel // Adler Planetarium

WHEN: Thursday, May 12, 2016
11:30 a.m. Luncheon
2:00 p.m. Student Program

About Wendy L. Freedman:

Wendy L. Freedman is a Canadian-American astronomer and is the John & Marion Sullivan University Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at University of Chicago. Freedman is best known for her measurement of the Hubble Constant—the rate at which the Universe is expanding. Her principle research interests are in observational cosmology, measuring the current and past expansion rates of the Universe, and on characterizing dark energy—the mysterious force that causes the Universe to accelerate its expansion. To learn more about this year's *WISS* honoree, please visit: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/join-give/fundraising-events/women-in-space-science/>

About the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium:

Since 2002, the Women's Board has been the Adler's lead partner in supporting science education programs, research, and community outreach. The Board is vital to the museum's efforts to reach underserved youth—with a special focus on young women—in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). For more information on the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium, please visit: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/join-give/affiliates/womens-board/>

About the Adler Planetarium:

The Adler Planetarium—America's First Planetarium—is more than a museum; it is a laboratory, a classroom, and a community exploring the Universe together. Each year, over 550,000 visitors experience the museum's interactive exhibitions, live planetarium shows, hands-on, minds-on STEM education programs, and world-class collections. Founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler, the Adler Planetarium is a recognized leader in public engagement. The museum's scientists, historians, and educators inspire the next generation of explorers and invite you to explore space with us.

Images courtesy of the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium. Photography by Bob Carl.
<http://robertcarl.net/adler/>