

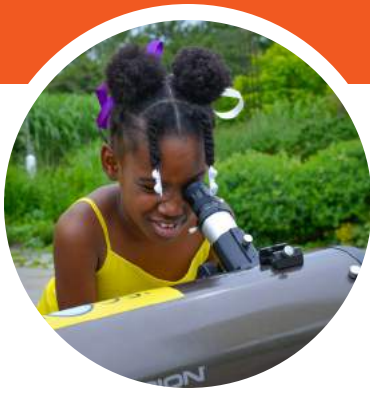
ADLER PLANETARIUM

WOMEN IN SPACE SCIENCE

AWARD LUNCHEON AND STUDENT PROGRAM

PRESS KIT





YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THE ADLER PLANETARIUM'S WOMEN IN SPACE SCIENCE AWARD CELEBRATION.

DATE

Thursday, May 12, 2016

LUNCHEON

11:30 am

The Drake Hotel

STUDENT PROGRAM

2:00 pm

Adler Planetarium

AWARD RECIPIENT

Wendy L. Freedman

John & Marion Sullivan University

Professor of Astronomy & Astrophysics,

The University of Chicago

On May 12, 2016, the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium will host its annual *Women in Space Science Award Celebration*. 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. In addition to an award luncheon, featuring a keynote presentation given by this year's honoree, the celebration includes an afternoon program for young women from Chicago-area schools.

Led by the award recipient and Adler astronomers and educators, students engage in hands-on, minds-on STEM workshops.

The *Women in Space Science Award Celebration* raises funds to support the Adler's STEM education programs including *Girls Do Hack* and *Girls' Technology Camp*.





Photo by
John Zich

2016 HONOREE

WENDY L. FREEDMAN

**JOHN & MARION SULLIVAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF
ASTRONOMY & ASTROPHYSICS, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

Freedman's research focuses on measuring both the current and past expansion rates of the Universe, and on characterizing the nature of dark energy—the mysterious force that causes the Universe to accelerate its expansion. She joined the University of Chicago in 2014 following a distinguished thirty-year career at the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution for Science in Pasadena, California. At Carnegie, Freedman was a co-leader of an international team of astronomers on the Hubble Space Telescope Key Project, a program to establish the distance scale of the Universe and measure the Hubble Constant—the rate at which the Universe is expanding.

While Director of the Carnegie Observatories, Freedman initiated the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT) Project, an international consortium of 10 leading universities and science institutions, to build a 25-meter optical telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile, now underway. From 2003-2015 she served as the GMT board chair.

Freedman is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Physical Society. Additional honors include the American Philosophical Society's Magellanic Premium, the Gruber Cosmology Prize, and the Heineman Prize for Astrophysics.



AT A GLANCE

The Adler Planetarium invites you to participate in the 2016 *Women in Space Science Award Celebration*. The luncheon features a reception for event attendees and a keynote presentation given by the honoree. Family and friends of participating teens are welcome and encouraged to attend.



INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION

Framed as an interactive discussion, students will be encouraged to engage Professor Freedman in conversation and ask questions about her education, career path, and field of work.



STUDENT PROGRAM

The highlight of the event is an afternoon program for middle-school girls. Approximately 250 students from Chicago-area schools visit the Adler for an afternoon of engaging STEM workshops. The Adler invites employees of sponsor companies to serve as volunteers during this memorable day.

PAST HONOREES

2015

SUNITA L. WILLIAMS

Captain, U.S. Navy
NASA Astronaut

2014

GWYNNE SHOTWELL

President and COO
SpaceX

2013

AMBER GELL

Rocket Scientist &
Spacecraft Systems Engineer
NASA/Lockheed Martin

2012

DR. FRANCE A. CORDOVA

Director, National Science
Foundation

2011

COLONEL PAM MELROY

Space Shuttle Commander

2010

C. MEGAN URRY, PHD

Professor of Physics and
Astronomy, Yale University

2009

HEIDI HAMMEL, PHD

Senior Research Scientist
Space Science Institute

VERA RUBIN, PHD

Research Astronomer
Carnegie Institute
of Washington

2008

BARBARA RADDING MORGAN

Space Shuttle Astronaut

2007

JOAN E. HIGGINBOTHAM

Space Shuttle Astronaut

2006

**COMMANDER
EILEEN COLLINS**

First woman to pilot a
Space Shuttle

2005

MERCURY 13

Thirteen women trained
to be America's first female
astronauts

2004

KATHY SULLIVAN, PHD

First American woman to
walk in space

2003

JILL CORNELL TARTER, PHD

Director of SETI Research
SETI Institute

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ABOUT THE ADLER

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, state-of-the-art planetarium shows, hands-on, minds-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs, cutting-edge research, and world-class collections.

Founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler, the Adler Planetarium is a recognized leader in science engagement with the public; the museum’s scientists, historians, and educators inspire the next generation of explorers and invite the public to explore space and do science with us.

Thank you for your consideration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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