

2018 January Newsletter

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The mission of WiD is to empower, connect, and engage women in a community that fosters professional growth and leadership while advancing the field.



January 2018



Dear WiD Members:

I hope your New Year is off to a great start! As leaders in development, you help fund what makes our community great, providing food security to those in need, supporting research to cure disease, bringing joy through arts and culture, endowing scholarships for underserved students, and so much more. We salute your efforts and are grateful to provide a forum to empower, connect, and engage women who share your commitment to making our community better.

In 2018, WiD is focused on creating opportunities for you to connect, learn, and grow. These include:

- **Luncheons.** WiD continues to offer our popular luncheon series with events on February 5th (featuring acclaimed author and speaker, Laura Fredricks!) and April 9th.
- **Structured Networking.** Join WiD for its signature I to I event on March 15 at the Cosmopolitan Club.
- **Career Advancement.** WiD is here for your professional development needs. We're offering a Grammar Boot Camp for Development Professionals on January 30th and will launch our first-ever Insider Roundtable on March 26th.
- **Woman of Achievement.** Mark your calendars for our annual Woman of Achievement celebration honoring Mary Ellen Miller, Vice-President of Development, Girls Who Code, on May 4th at the Plaza Hotel.
- **President's Council.** The President's Council will not only have a very special opportunity at I to I this year with Christine Quinn leading the conversation, but will also present a financial planning course in March.

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We hope that you'll take advantage of all that WiD has to offer. Have an idea for a program? [CLICK HERE](#) to let us know your thoughts. Do you know someone new to development who would benefit from a WiD membership? Consider gifting them a membership ([CLICK HERE](#) to learn more!)

As always, WiD is here to serve you and our community of development professionals who are helping make a difference every day.

Cheers to You!

Nicole Thigpen Felix
President, Women in Development, New York

Start Your 2018 Off Strong with these Helpful Tips

We asked top career coaches, Marti Fischer and Robin Rosenbluth the following questions -- their responses will encourage and inspire you as you look to the year ahead.



Marti Fischer

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Robin Rosenbluth

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What is the first step in setting attainable goals for the year ahead?

Marti Fischer: The first step in any process is always the most important step. A goal should be a motivating not a stress-inducing factor. When setting a goal, first look at your home life and your responsibilities inside and outside of

the office. This will help you make a balanced assessment about what kind of goal is manageable. Then break down your goal into mini activities – monthly, weekly and/or daily- to help keep you on track and moving toward your goal.

Robin Rosenbluth: When you think of your career advancement, consider what would both bring you more satisfaction in your job and would also stretch you just a bit to keep you on your toes, but not make it too difficult to feel comfortable. Set an intention for where you want to go, and then begin taking on the new responsibilities.

How can I best assess if my career is on the right path?

Marti Fischer: Are you happy when you wake up and go into the office each day? Is there room for professional development and growth in your current role? Do you see yourself in the same function/sector in 5 years? If the answer to any of these questions is NO, it may be time to reassess your career path.

Robin Rosenbluth: We need to look inside ourselves and say, “is this right for me, and I able to handle the new role and still enjoy my job?” Try to not only look at yourself, try to observe how you think others view you and ask for feedback if you don’t get it from those you serve and/or co-workers. As fundraisers in the non-profit sector, there are many ways to feel satisfied with our positions ... so make sure you are doing what you love (even if it is not every moment); working for a cause about which you care deeply makes the hard times less rocky.

If it is on the correct path, what are some tips on reinforcing that success?

Marti Fischer: There is always room for learning and growth. Make professional development a priority. Improve your public speaking skills (as you move up the ranks, there will be an expectation that you will be speaking in public). Make a mini goal to meet 2-3 new people each month to prevent getting stuck in a routine. When you go to a conference or a luncheon, sit with people you don’t know. Find out why they are attending and where the areas of commonality lie. Meeting new people is both interesting and helps you refine your ‘elevator pitch’.

Robin Rosenbluth: Respecting others is key. Everyone generally tries to do their best, so don't expect others to be carbon copies of yourself if you are hard driven toward advancement. Keep notes about your work, your achievements and update your own metrics before being told what to do. Remember, you need to be your best advocate for yourself.

If it is not on the correct path, what's the next best step?

Marti Fischer: Step back and figure out what you like to do and where your strongest skills lie. These may not be the same thing. Overlay your interests and strengths with careers that value those areas.

Robin Rosenbluth: Jump off the diving board into uncharted territory. You can always move back up the ladder if you take a step back (salary and status wise) to try something you in which you have less experience. We are among a group of workers who can love our work, so why not try to find out what most resonates with you.

Any closing words of encouragement?

Marti Fischer: Take the long view and have patience. Change takes time to accomplish, especially with home and family responsibilities. Don't forget to have some fun along the way and be nice to yourself!

Robin Rosenbluth: Fundraising is a vehicle in life to give back and pay forward, a way to make the world a better place to be based on your values. Finding a mentor whom you respect is always helpful, and these mentors sometimes come to you in ways you might not expect. So be open to talking with those you admire and share your stories. Stories are a critical component both with donors, supervisors and others in the field. We learn from practice, so like anything it takes time to "find your groove." Do not be too tough on yourself. Set your intentions for where you want to go and move toward that goal with the support of others.

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Robin Rosenbluth
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As a consultant and executive coach, Marti helps individuals and organizations strategically position and communicate their worth in a fast moving world. For organizations it means creating a business position and developing the supporting narrative. Individuals work with Marti to position their skills, get the jobs they want and excel as leaders. She is co-author of *'The Nonprofit Consultant's Playbook'* and author of the upcoming *'Do it Right! What No One Tells You (but you need to know) About Entering the Working World'*.

Robin H. Rosenbluth is a fundraising consultant and career coach. As a coach, she works with fundraisers, career changers, and executive leaders/boards. As a consultant, she conducts development audits and fundraising plans, builds and strengthens major gift shops, guides staff in board development, corporate and foundation relations, donor stewardship and conducts feasibility studies and works to plan and help implement endowment and capital campaigns.

WiD PROGRAMMING SURVEY

WiD wants to know what YOU think! Please take a moment and complete our short survey so WiD can better serve our members. Thank you!

Click [here](#) for the Programming Survey.

For questions please feel free to email WiD at widny@widny.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

WiD LUNCHEON

- 5 Feb 2018
- Location: Princeton Club:
15 W 43rd St, New York, NY 10036

I TO I: A STRUCTURED NETWORKING EXPERIENCE

- 15 Mar 2018
- Location: The Cosmopolitan Club:
122 East 66th Street (Park & Lexington)

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