At INSIGHT Into Diversity, we understand the importance of increasing the number of women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Through our 100 Inspiring Women in STEM Award, we recognize exemplary women - with excerpts from their nomination letters - who inspire and encourage the next generation of young women to pursue careers in STEM.

The INSIGHT Into Diversity 100 Inspiring Women in STEM Award honors women who work to make a difference in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). While women who work in these fields enjoy significant opportunities to engage in new discoveries and innovations, they are rarely recognized for their hard work and dedication. Through this award, we acknowledge these women who inspire and encourage a new generation of young women to consider careers in STEM, through mentoring, teaching, research, and successful programs and initiatives.

Lily Claiborne, PhD
Senior Lecturer in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Vanderbilt University

Dr. Claiborne is co-primary investigator on a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates project that targets underrepresented populations to provide opportunity, community, and mentorship that lead to STEM career success. In its first year, all of the female student who applied to graduate geoscience programs were admitted with funding. Claiborne also uses feminist pedagogies to create inclusive classrooms to reduce stereotypes.
Inspiring Women in STEM Awards

Laura Guertin, PhD
Professor of Earth Science
Penn State Brandywine

Most universities wait until students reach their senior year to begin research. However, as the only Earth science faculty member at Penn State Brandywine, Dr. Guertin allows students to begin their own research projects as freshmen and sophomores. This early engagement provides a solid and valuable foundation for further learning and development at the upper level. Of the undergraduates she has mentored, 75 percent have been women.

Meredith Hastings, PhD
Associate Professor of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences & Environment and Society
Brown University

Dr. Hastings co-founded and serves as vice president of the Earth Science Women’s Network (ESWN), an organization dedicated to career development and community-building for women to support a more diverse scientific community. Hastings excels at tailoring her mentoring style to her students’ needs and provides ample opportunities for their development as scientists and professionals.

Tracey Holloway, PhD
Professor of Environmental Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Holloway is the president and co-founder of Earth Science Women’s Network, an organization dedicated to career development and supporting a more diverse scientific community. As a researcher, she applies quantitative methods to air quality models and observations, addressing policy-relevant problems in energy, transportation, and public health. Holloway is also deputy leader of the NASA Air Quality Applied Sciences Team.

Erin C. Pettit, PhD
Assistant Professor of Geophysics and Glaciology
University of Alask Fairbanks

Beyond her duties as a professor, Dr. Pettit works to provide life-changing opportunities for young women. As founder and director of Girls On Ice, she gives high school girls the chance to immerse themselves in science and develop their wilderness skills. Every summer, participants gain confidence as they trek across some of the world’s remaining glaciers. Pettit also works to train other professionals to be effective mentors.