

4th Annual Report of the WIIT Charitable Trust: May 2005 – May 2006

After completing my first year in the position of Chairwoman of The WIIT Charitable Trust, I am pleased to present the fourth annual report of the WIIT Charitable Trust covering activities from May 2005 to May 2006. At the completion of its fourth year, the WIIT Trust continues to move forward in its endeavors to foster public understanding and awareness of International Trade and the role of women in the field.

The Trust began the 2005-06 year with the specific goal of training teachers to use its educational material, which had been standardized and “beta-tested” during the previous year. On September 22nd, the Trust conducted a workshop for teachers interested in the Trade Education module, “Teaching International Trade Concepts”. Ms. Liese Wright coordinated the workshop with the help of Ms. Mary Alexander, Ms. Monique Roske, and Ms. Jennifer Mulveny. Teachers from Fairfax County, Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County participated in the event and received instruction as to how to best implement the lesson plans in their curriculum. As a result of the workshop, the Trust received vital feedback from the educators that included several ways to improve the project’s visibility.

At the November 5 OWITT Board Meeting in Washington, DC, Monique Roske highlighted the Trust’s Trade Education Project as an agenda item. The OWIT Board members were very interested in the project and many asked for copies of the lesson plans. Monique Roske assembled the lesson plans onto one CD and sent them to interested members throughout the country.

In January, the Trust finalized and began to disseminate its “International Trade in the Classroom” brochure. Created by Suezy Vaughn, the 2005 University of Richmond summer intern, the brochure publicizes the trade education project and includes positive student comments. The brochure will be distributed at the annual OWIT Conference in addition to training conferences, to WIIT members, and to interested teachers as a marketing tool for the Trust.

Throughout February, members of the Trust began working on potential grant proposals and submitted its first application to the Cafritz Foundation, a local foundation supporting education and arts programming in the Washington DC area. The proposal purports the educational branch of the Trust and its aim of deepening, expanding, and completing the international trade education project. As this was the first grant application made by the Trust, it represents the substantial undertaking of Mary Alexander and Mary Lou Egan, who led the grant preparation effort. In the future, the Trust hopes to submit further grant applications using the finished proposal as a template from which to improve.

In April, the Trust hired Alliance Management to maintain and update the website for the upcoming 2006-07 year. The Trust felt this was necessary in order to enhance its website to make it more informative and professional in appearance. Thus far, the Trust

has been very pleased with the website and the new information it provides viewers, and can be accessed by visiting <http://wiittrust.org>.

Through the process of obtaining funds for its numerous activities, the WIIT Charitable Trust continued to support itself through generous donations from individual WIIT members and from WIIT's generous donations of their 2005 holiday silent auction. The Trust is grateful to WIIT for its strong support in spirit and finance throughout the year.

As always, the Trust continues to bustle with activity and new projects. In the coming months, the Trust will continue to revise and review the educational material to enhance its effectiveness in the classroom. Future supplements to "Understanding International Trade Concepts" will likely include more detailed background reading on trade so that teachers feel more comfortable with the content of the lessons. The Trust also intends to gather more feedback on the effectiveness of the CDs and lesson plans.

To expand its support for various trade education projects, the Trust is considering sponsoring a study entitled "The Social Impact of Trade on Women" to determine why trade is perceived to have such a negative impact on women. Data from this study would help the Trust tailor the trade education program to address public perceptions about the impact of trade on women.

In conclusion, it has been an exciting and a wonderful first year in my experiences as the WIIT Charitable Trust Chairwoman. I, along with all the WIIT Charitable Trust members, deeply appreciate the support we receive from WIIT members and its board members. In addition, I would also like to thank all of the Trust members for their unceasing dedication to the mission and activities of the Trust.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Roske
Chair, WIIT Charitable Trust Committee