



**Report of 2004-05 Activities**  
**of the WIIT Charitable Trust**  
**May 17, 2005**

I am pleased to provide the third annual report of the WIIT Charitable Trust covering activities from May 2004 to May 2005. As you know, three years ago, WIIT established a separate educational arm with a mission to promote public knowledge and understanding of international trade and the role of women in these efforts. I am pleased to report that we continue to move forward in our efforts.

The Trust used the summer of 2004 to further its high school trade education project through the services of Ann Dolan, a social studies teacher from Montgomery County. Using the various classroom materials presented to Largo High School by WIIT volunteers the previous school year, Ms. Dolan created for the Trust a set of eight lessons on teaching international trade concepts. The lesson module, designed for both junior and senior high schools, is based on Maryland core competency requirements but is designed to meet national educational guidelines. Subjects covered in the lessons include trade agreement negotiations, legislating U.S. trade law, and tariffs and market access. Each 90-minute lesson includes a section on understanding concepts and then the opportunity for a classroom role-playing exercise, such as negotiating a multilateral trade agreement or debating whether Congress should approve a bilateral free trade agreement.

We could not have accomplished even half the work on our high school project if it had not been for Marie DeForest, our summer intern from the University of Richmond. Marie came to us through the generosity of Amanda DeBusk and her law firm Miller & Chevalier. She worked very closely with our contract teacher on finalizing lesson plans, as well continuing research on potential funding sources.

In September 2004, as the nation prepared for the presidential election in two months, the Trust co-sponsored with Consumers for World Trade a highly successful international trade debate between representatives of the Democratic and Republican parties. Before a sold-out crowd of more than 120 attendees, former Ambassador Clayton Yeutter, representing the Republicans, and Dr. Lael Brainard, former Deputy National Security Advisor for President Clinton, debated the importance of CAFTA, the WTO and other trade policy positions of the two parties. We thank Bruce Stokes of the *National Journal* for moderating the event and Barbara Wanner, Pam Slater and their committee for their hard work to organize the program. The event received widespread press coverage, including a front page article in the *Washington Post* Business section.

In November, I presented an update on the Trust and our trade education project at the OWIT annual conference in Tampa, Florida. How exciting it was to receive such strong enthusiasm for our efforts. Other OWIT chapters were excited about the concept of the Trust and the possibilities of working with the Trust on other OWIT projects. In fact, the Trust now is undertaking a project that will create a primer on how entrepreneurs can establish and successfully run new OWIT chapters. Others came up to me and said they would like to

distribute our lesson module to teachers in their communities, recognizing the lessons as a wonderful means for bringing chapter members into the classroom to talk about what we do.

We now are in the midst of ‘beta-testing’ our lessons – looking for ways to improve them before we distribute them more widely. In January, therefore, we held our first teacher workshop to explain the module and to solicit input and comments from teachers. Their suggestions, such as providing a separate glossary of terms and a background preparatory reading prior to each lesson, have already improved our product. In fact, *Inside US Trade* editor Peter Kasperowicz has been very generous in offering to draft fictitious news stories that discuss some of the issues connected to our lessons. We intend to continue these workshops as we recruit more teachers who agree to use the lessons in their classrooms. Although many in the Trust have been helpful, my special thanks to Liese Wright, Monique Roske, Amada DeBusk, Mary Lou Egan, Jennifer Mulveney, and Carrie Philips for their particular efforts in editing and improving these lessons and making them ready to use nationwide.

Until it receives its first foundation grant for its trade education project and its chapter development project, the Trust continues to support itself through generous donations from individual WIIT members. In addition, WIIT was very generous in donating to the Trust the proceeds from its 2004 holiday silent auction. We are grateful to WIIT for its strong support both financially and spiritually.

The Trust now is going through a transition. This May marks the end of its three-year trial period under IRS regulations, and we are ready to apply for final status as a publicly supported non-profit, educational organization. It now seems fitting that the leadership responsibilities for the Trust also pass on. And so I am pleased to announce that Monique Roske, one of the original members of the Trust, has agreed to take over the chairmanship of the WIIT Charitable Trust. In addition, Liese Wright, an actual teacher in her own right, has agreed to coordinate and supervise our high school project.

Recently Mary Lou Egan was very kind to host a dinner retreat to assess how far we have come since 2001 and to discuss where we see the future for the Trust. In addition to our current projects, there continues to be some lingering interest in conducting another public opinion poll that focuses on the woman’s point of view on trade. We also want to partner with other trade education organizations such as the Washington Council on International Trade and the American Bar Association, as well as work with high school career counselors.

As always, we appreciate the strong support we receive from WIIT and its board members. But just as importantly, I want to extend my personal thanks to those Trust members who have provided so much of their time to advancing the goals of the Trust. I will always be grateful for their commitment and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary K. Alexander  
Chair, WIIT Charitable Trust Committee