

The WIIT Charitable Trust  
1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 1110  
Washington, DC 20036  
[www.wiittrust.org](http://www.wiittrust.org)

**2003-04 Activities Report for WIIT Charitable Trust**  
**May 4, 2004**

I am pleased to report on this year's activities of the WIIT Charitable Trust, the educational arm of Women in International Trade. As you know, the Trust is a non-profit educational and charitable organization committed to trade education endeavors. Our mission statement is to promote public knowledge and understanding of international trade and international business and the role of women therein.

The primary focus of the Trust continues to be on secondary school education. This was our second year working with the Academy of Law and Public Policy at Largo High School in Prince George's County, Maryland. Working with junior and senior students in their International Issues Course, the Trust presented monthly programs on various international trade policy issues, using, as teachers, WIIT members and other well-known experts in the field. The topics covered this year included trade agreements, market access, trade with Africa, trade relief, and export controls.

Although each class begins with a short overview of the issue, the most popular part of the class has been the role-playing exercise. For instance, in the trade agreements class, we divided the students into six different countries, each trying to negotiate with the others to obtain concessions to reach their trading objectives. It was very interesting to watch the student realize that negotiations between countries and not that dissimilar to what these students do every day. For instance, when the students representing Madagascar realized that no other country wanted to negotiate with them, they found themselves relying on the sympathy of the larger countries to get any recognition. After the exercise we asked the students to write down something they learned. One student said, "I learned that the United States is stingy." This was probably someone on the Madagascar team!

In December we brought the students to Capitol Hill where they toured the Capitol and met with staff of the House Ways and Means Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and their own congressman, Rep. Al Wynn (D-MD).

We are pleased with the number of WIIT members who have expressed interest in the Trust and, consequently, have volunteered their time to the various activities of the Trust. Today we have over 20 women working with the Trust, including Liese Wright, our Treasurer; Barbara Linney, our legal counsel; Amanda DeBusk who helps with publicity and has been very generous in offering the services of a summer intern; Tina Howe who created and now maintains our website; Rebecca Woodings who oversees its improvements; Rebecca Miller, who has sought additional volunteers for the Trust; and

Mary Lou Egan who organized the Trust's participation in the holiday silent auction. Others like Monique Roske, Janet Nuzum, Julie Hughes, Jennifer Mulveny, Tiffany McCullen, Carrie Clark Philips, Edyta Malinowski, and Kathleen Patterson have been very generous with their time and counsel.

Currently the Trust sustains itself through a 2002 grant from WIIT, annual contributions from supportive members and partial proceeds from WIIT's holiday silent auction. In 2004 the Trust received \$2,500 in donations and fundraising. To make it easier for potential contributors to give a tax-deductible contribution to the Trust, we have expanded our website to include a link to the WIIT webpage and to a separate donation page. We also have formed a committee, chaired by Barbara Wanner, to develop our first foundation grant application. Our goal is to be financially self-sufficient by 2006.

Last summer, our University of Richmond intern further refined our list of targeted foundations to create a list of most promising grantors. The law firm of Miller & Chevalier and University of Richmond alumna Amanda DeBusk have offered again, for this summer, the services of this college intern to both WIIT and the WIIT Trust. We expect her to formalize and standardize the programs presented to Largo High School over the past two years. We also plan this summer to hire a teacher to convert our high school programs into a set of lesson plans that can be made available to other schools and institutions.

Our major plan for the fall is to sponsor, perhaps with Consumers for World Trade, a trade debate between trade experts from the two presidential campaigns. We also intend to submit our first comprehensive grant application this fall, seeking major financial support for our trade education endeavors.

We are excited about the future of the Trust and appreciate immensely the interest and support received from WIIT.

Mary K. Alexander  
Chair, WIIT Charitable Trust Committee