



# Significant Accomplishments

- Lawrence Summers' remarks at the Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> NBER Conference and ensuing media attention to the issues of women in science & engineering have provided us with ample opportunities for dissemination of our work:
  - We created a website to track the media responses to Summers' comments (<http://wiseli.engr.wisc.edu/news/Summers.htm>.) This comprehensive listing of articles, letters and essays has generated thousands of new hits to our website. Normally, we average around 250 hits a month to our website. In the past three months, we've averaged over 800 hits a month.
  - Once on our website, visitors have found our materials for hiring committees, and we've seen an increase in requests for our materials.
  - Our WISELI essay responding to Summers got the attention of the two Task Forces created at Harvard, and they have requested WISELI's materials for consideration.
  - WISELI co-PI Jo Handelsman will be meeting with the chairs of the two Task Forces (March 31) and also Lawrence Summers himself on March 30.



## Areas of difficulty/resistance

- The Medical School. Over the past several months, we have become increasingly concerned about the Medical School's climate for women, and the importance of the Medical School as a driver for the rest of the UW-Madison campus. This has come to a head in recent months because the Dean announced his retirement in late December.
  - We have continued to work with Department Chairs in the Medical School in our workshops. This has been difficult due to their resistance to our efforts, as well as the size of the departments and the rather different issues that exist in the Medical School.
  - In two recent meetings of Medical School Department Chairs, the problems have been brought out forcefully. Despite the fact that the message in one meeting was delivered by the Chancellor and not WISELI, it is still WISELI that is receiving the brunt of "offended" comments by the chairs.



## Best Idea/Reference Source/Insight

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- Stir things up! Be bold! Sometimes it takes a little controversy to move forward.
  - Using vivid language to illustrate the experiences of women has an impact.
  - Be prepared for the personal backlash.
  - Use the backlash as an opportunity to educate.