University of Alabama’s WISE Board Holds 2nd Annual Event Celebrating Women in STEM

On November 16th, WISE will hold a conference called “Pathways to Success” to support, encourage, and educate women majoring in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) related fields. The conference will begin at 9:00 am at the University of Alabama in Shelby Hall and end at 4:30 pm. “Pathways to Success” is open to juniors, seniors and graduate students in STEM.

Tide Together and the WISE board hope to use this opportunity to celebrate women in STEM fields and provide them with resources and networking opportunities to aid in their academic and professional growth. Last year’s event was a great victory with over 60 graduate students and faculty members in attendance. This year, the event is being moved to a Saturday in the hopes of doubling that number by making itself available to those busy during the week. With Dr. Mary Lou Soffa, from the University of Virginia, as keynote speaker and several other presenters from the University of Alabama, topics covered will focus on Career, Education, and Work/Life issues for women in STEM fields and careers. The event will also hold two poster sessions with door prizes for participants.

November 16th’s sessions will focus on topics designed to inform participants about skills for the job market, information on navigating graduate school, as well as, advice and resources available for women balancing career and family. Students in attendance will also receive valuable networking opportunities during scheduled breaks.

WISE (Women in STEM Experience) was born from within the University’s Graduate School Tide Together initiative that seeks to support women in STEM through mentorship and networking in the hopes of narrowing the existing gender gap in STEM studies and careers. Since its inception WISE has become its own stand-alone initiative with the support of multiple departments on campus. Through WISE and Tide Together, women studying science and math related fields are placed with a Graduate or Faculty mentor to help them develop skills in professionalism and in their field of study. In a further effort to support its participants, WISE has created “Pathways for Success” as an opportunity for students to meet with fellow scholars and professionals while learning to navigate science and math related fields and graduate programs.

WISE is actively seeking involvement in new events to promote women and STEM fields. To learn more about WISE or about how students, faculty and professionals in STEM can contribute to “Pathways to Success” please contact: Becky Odom-Bartel at rlodombartel@ua.edu or Dr. Andy Goodliffe at amg@ua.edu.