

## **Instilling a Sense of Possibility in the STEM Career Field**

*by Kathy Warden*

Running operations on an oil platform. Saving the lives of wildland firefighters. Helping flights land safely. Each of these positive outcomes is also the job description of a meteorologist – of a female meteorologist, at that.

Are you surprised? If so, you're not alone. Those of us interested in STEM education are finding out that women don't always realize their potential to achieve careers in science, technology, engineering and math, what opportunities await them in those areas, or how to develop and evolve a career in STEM.

That's an issue.

In fact, I'd say it's a challenge. Some studies show that interest in STEM careers is waning, and that women in particular are turning away from it. This trend bodes ill, in light of recent technology attacks around the world. We need people trained and ready to insure us against future cyber attacks, to fight against the spread of Ebola, to prepare us for another Hurricane Katrina and to educate the next generation faced with these trials. Without people in these positions, without women in the mix, we leave ourselves and our country vulnerable in a variety of ways.

There's a solution to this challenge.

The cause of their shift away from STEM careers, some women report, is a lack of possibility. They feel it's unlikely that they're qualified for STEM jobs, that jobs wouldn't be available to them, that they aren't aware of potential opportunities, or that they are unable to develop the careers they want. I work for a company that wants to instill a sense of possibility in women, and we're planning an event in March as part of Women's History Month to help do that.

On March 25 at noon, Northrop Grumman will sponsor a "Women in Weather" Google Hangout on Air. At this event, our panelists – six women who've chosen careers in STEM, specifically in meteorology – will answer a range of weather-related questions posed by our host, Laura Delgado López of the Secure World Foundation. As a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, Northrop Grumman has a legacy of support to environmental programs within the U.S. government – more importantly, we have a passion for showing women that they can be a part of those efforts. Join us in shining the spotlight on STEM, on women and on all the possibilities that exist in between.

See you [then](#).

