

2018
Conference



Keynote Speaker



Dr. Rachel MK Headley

Whether you are in the C-Suite or in the Situation Room, problems crop up every day that do not have easy solutions. As a leader in a 40+ year satellite mission, Rachel and the ops team tackled thorny issues that ranged from highly-technical failures to mission-ending threats from external forces. She shares stories of avoiding and recovering from disaster and the leadership lessons she applies to business today.

Dr. Rachel MK Headley is a Mensa PhD scientist and former operational science officer of the Landsat satellite mission, with over two decades of experience leading complex and groundbreaking achievements, managing big projects, uniting diverse international stakeholders, and guiding teams through change.

The keynote address is sponsored by a grant from the South Dakota Space Grant Consortium.

Molly Brown, Vice President of Energy Production



GenPro Energy Solutions

BA Economics, New York University

MBA Quantitative Economics, Mills College

“The path you start out on doesn’t necessarily end up leading to the place you think. Be open and receptive to new ideas and new things.”

Monica Bugbee, Fossil Preparator



**The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD
BS Archaeological Science,
Pennsylvania State University
MS Student in Cultural Resources
Management Archaeology, St. Cloud
State University**

“Work hard, learn from your mistakes, but most importantly: don’t forget to have fun and appreciate the wonders of the world around you!”

Sandra Burns, Business Owner, Chemical & Petroleum Engineer



**Project Solutions, INC
BS, Chemical & Petroleum Refining
Engineering, Colorado School of Mines**

“Try for the hardest classes or the most challenging career. That way you will know what you are capable of doing and it may take you to some exciting places.”

Corey Christianson, Exhibits and Curations Coordinator



**The Journey Museum and Learning Center
BA History and English, University of South
Dakota**

MA Museum Studies, University of Oklahoma

“As cliché as it sounds, follow your dreams. If you know what you want to be when you grow up – if it is your dream, your passion, your need to do that one career – then do it. Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t.”

Deena Davis, CRNA; Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist



**Rapid City Regional Hospital
BS Nursing, South Dakota State University
MS Nursing, Mount Marty College**

Brigham Young said “You educate a man, you educate a man. You educate a woman, you educate a generation.” Let’s thank the women before us by succeeding, helping each other succeed, and leading the way for future generations.

Abigail Domagall, PhD, Associate Professor of Geology



**Black Hills State University
BS Geological Science, University of Leeds, UK
MS, PhD Geology (Volcanology), University at
Buffalo, NY**

“Get involved and take as many opportunities that come your way as possible. Take opportunities to work shadow, to check out universities and their programs, to get to know your teachers or professors, and later, to participate in research, and go to conferences.”

Samantha Figgins, DC, Chiropractor



**Health Source of Rapid City
BS, Palmer College of Chiropractic
DC, Palmer College of Chiropractic**

“Whatever your passion may be, take it, and nurture the idea of what happiness it will bring in your future. We only live one life so we shouldn’t spend a single second of it doing something that doesn’t bring joy and fulfillment to our lives.”

Sara Gottlob, Certified Nurse Practitioner



Regional Health

AS Business, BHSU

BS Nursing, SDSU

AS Nursing, USD

MS Nursing, SDSU

“Work hard every day to succeed and achieve your goals in life. Your daily sweat and endurance will persevere.”

Marci Heine, DPT; Physical Therapist



**Spearfish Regional Hospital
BS, SDSU**

**Master of Physical Therapy Degree, USD
Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree, USD**

“When thinking about careers related to science, it doesn’t have to be looking into microscopes or wearing goggles when watching explosions. A career in science is just observing, asking questions, then watching to see if something changes. Every day I observe a person’s movements. I manipulate variables by giving exercise, provide training or a treatment. I then recheck shoulder movement to see if there is a change.”

Colleen Hurley, Meteorologist, Multimedia Journalist



**KOTA TV, Gray Television Inc.
BS Meteorology, Plymouth State University**

“Be open to the many different sciences. If you’re like me and don’t like biology, for example, it doesn’t mean you don’t like science as a whole. You might find your niche in chemistry, oceanography, etc.”

Sponsors



Dr. Kathryn Johnson



Hope Jackson, Dental Hygienist, Office Manager, Treatment Coordinator, Myofunctional Therapy Specialist



**Jackson Dental Professionals, LLC
BS Dental Hygiene, University of
Minnesota School of Dentistry**

“Have passion and confidence in what you do. Believe in yourself, you are fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Deborah Liddick, Assistant Director of Facilities and Sustainability



Black Hills State University
BS Mathematics, Wilkes University
MS Aeronautical Science, Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ.
MS National Recourse Strategy, National Defense University

“With a STEM degree, you might find yourself working in a mostly male dominated career field but always remember you don’t have to present yourself as “one of the boys” to succeed, you should trust your brain and be a confident woman.”

Raeann Mettler, Biology Instructor



Black Hills State University
BS Biology, Black Hills State University
MS Integrative Genomics, Black Hills State
University
PhD Candidate, University of Freiburg, Germany

“There are amazing opportunities to get involved with science, technology, engineering, and math right here in the Black Hills and within the state of South Dakota. I also encourage young women to consider studying abroad at some point; spending 3 years in Germany for my PhD has proven to be a rewarding decision in my own life.”

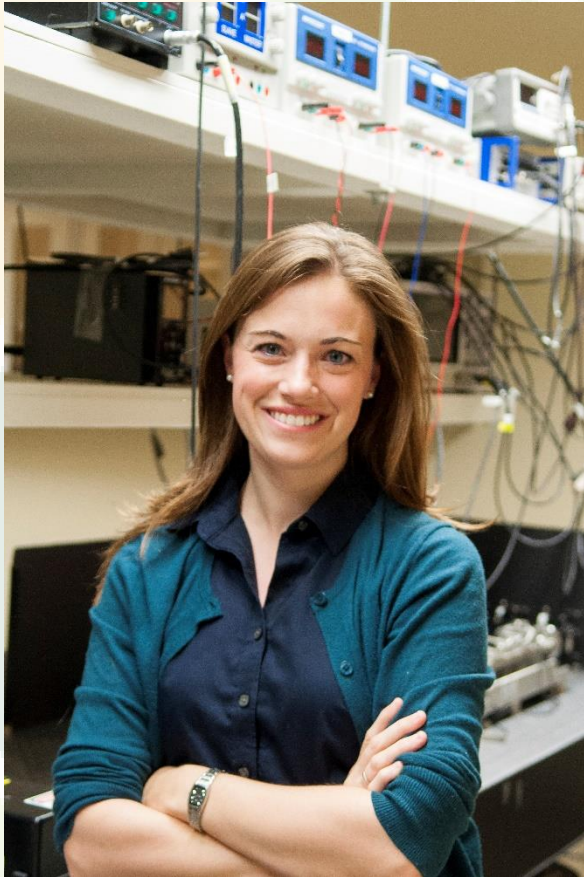
Denise Miller, Geographic Information System Specialist



**National Resource Conservation Service
BS Agronomy & Environmental Management,
SDSU
MS Plant Science, SDSU**

“Do what you enjoy! Stay curious and ask questions. Learn something new each day. Don’t be afraid to select a career path that is different than your friends or family.”

Brianna Mount, PhD, Assistant Professor of Physics



Black Hills State University

BS, Physics and Mathematics, University of Idaho

PhD, Physics, Florida State University

“Curiosity is one of the most important ingredients for a career in science. If you’re curious and have a good imagination, you can always learn the rest if you work hard enough. ‘When you’re curious, you find lots of interesting things to do.’-Walt Disney

Rebecca Newton, Wildlife Biologist



**Bureau of Land Management
BS Wildlife Biology, Minor Fine Arts,
University of Montana
MS Wildlife Biology, University of Montana**

“Look at failures as opportunities for learning and growth. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. It is more important to learn how to use the resources around you than it is to try to know everything.”

Kate Pojorlie, Meteorologist



**National Weather Service
BS Atmospheric Science, SDSM&T**

“Don’t let difficult classes in high school and college deter you from becoming what you want to be.”

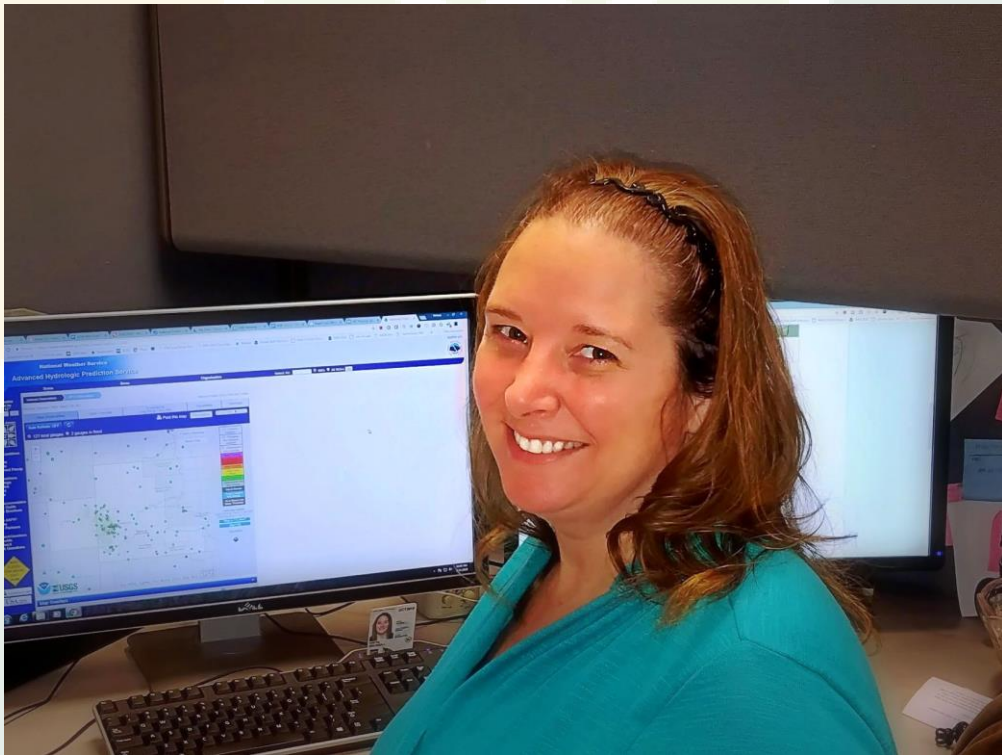
Susan Sanders, Warning Coordination Meteorologist



National Weather Service
BS Atmospheric Science, University of Michigan
Masters in Public Administration, University of
Nebraska

“Don’t be afraid to go to new places or do new things!”

Melissa Smith, Service Hydrologist



**NOAA National Weather Service
BS Atmospheric Science, Iowa State
University**

**“Take lots of math, science, and
computer classes. The more variety,
the better since many employers
prefer to hire people with diverse
backgrounds and training.”**

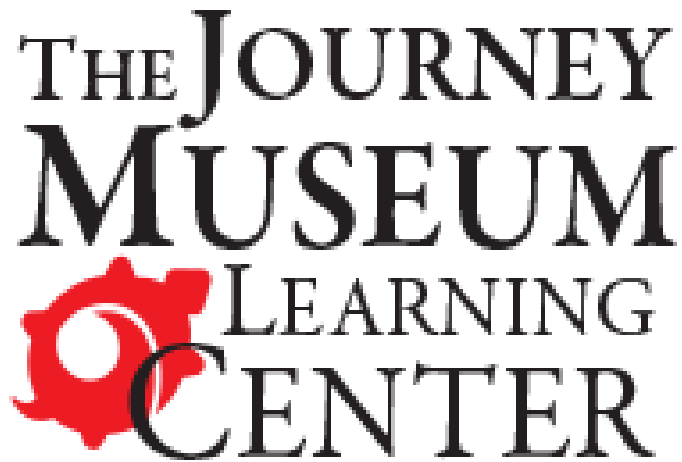
Ann Slaughter, Vice President of Strategic Telecommunications Accounts



**TEOCO Corporation, Retired
BA Mathematics and German, Middlebury College
MS Biostatistics, Harvard University**

**“Be curious and always learning. Do what you love
and you will always love what you do!”**

Silvia Trentz, Educator



Journey Museum and Learning Center
BA, Black Hills State University
MS, South Dakota State University

“Did you know that some countries do not allow or expect girls to go to school? It is an unfortunate fact, and the truth is, education benefits the self and society as a whole. Therefore, set your course and stay in school, make life choices through an educated mind.”

Logan Stone, Principal Regulatory Affairs Specialist



Medtronic, Inc

BS Animal Science, Iowa State University

**MS Regulatory Affairs for Drugs, Biologics and
Medical Devices, Northeastern University**

**“Ensure you work hard in everything you do and
take every opportunity to experience something
new. Pursue your passion in STEM and the world
will be at your fingertips.”**

Kara Weigel, Physical Therapist



**Regional Health
BS Biology, Augustana University
MS Physical Therapy, Baylor University
Transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy,
Baylor University**

“Set long term and short-term goals for yourself and share them with people that will help you make a plan to reach those goals. You shouldn’t choose not to do something because you are afraid of failing, failure is okay, that is how we grow and learn.”

Gaby Wolff, Water and Wastewater Utilities Operator



City of Spearfish

AS General Studies, Black hills State University

**BS Student Environmental Economics & Policy,
Oregon State University**

“Take every opportunity to grow. Whether in school or in extracurricular activities, from friends or role models; always make your best attempt to learn everything you can especially when the lessons are free.”

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Dr. Kathryn Johnson

