



Vail Valley

Media Contacts

Lisa Christie

Phone: 303-285-2961

Cell: 917-609-0839 / lisac@wfco.org

Deb Luginbuhl

Cell: 970-390-3241 / luginbuhld@gmail.com

For Immediate Release

The Women's Foundation of Colorado
to Host NASA Astronaut Anna L. Fisher (M.D.)
at annual Vail Valley Luncheon

Vail, CO (June 19, 2015) – The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) Vail Valley Regional Committee announces that it will host NASA astronaut Anna L. Fisher (M.D.) as the Keynote Speaker for its annual luncheon on August 12th at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort. This year's luncheon theme is "*A Place at the Table: Reach for the Stars, Launching STEM Careers for Women & Girls.*"

Dr. Fisher was a mission specialist on Space Shuttle *Discovery*, which launched from Kennedy Space Center on November 8, 1984. As the first space salvage mission, the crew retrieved two satellites for return to Earth. *Discovery* completed 127 Earth orbits before landing at Kennedy Space Center. With the completion of her first flight, Dr. Fisher logged a total of 192 hours in space and became the first mother in space.

Currently based at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Dr. Fisher is a NASA astronaut working on display development for the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) and supporting European payloads for the NASA's International Space Station Integration branch.

In Colorado, women earn more than 50% of two-year and four-year degrees, but less than 30% of Colorado graduates in STEM are women. Women's under-representation in STEM fields begins early, with gender gaps in STEM interests beginning in middle school and growing throughout high school, college, and career.

Together with our partners, WFCO seeks a deeper understanding of why girls and women are under-represented in STEM and invests in organizations across the state working to prepare, recruit and retain women and girls in STEM fields.

-more-

This year's Honorary Chairs are Senenne and Dr. Marc Philippon of the The Steadman Clinic/The Steadman Philippon Research Institute in Vail, CO. The 2015 WFCO Vail Valley WOW! Award (Women and Girls Outstanding Work) given annually at the luncheon will be presented to Kim Langmaid, visionary and founder of Walking Mountains Science Center in Avon, CO.

About the WFCO's Vail Valley Luncheon

Who: The Women's Foundation of Colorado – Vail Valley Regional Committee
What: Annual Luncheon & Raffle with Keynote Speaker NASA Astronaut Anna. L. Fisher (M.D.)
When: Wednesday, August 12 / 11:00 a.m. - 1 :45 p.m.
Where: Vail Marriott Mountain Resort – Vail, CO

The Ruth Ray Hunt Donor Advised Fund held at The Women's Foundation of Colorado will match all donations at the event dollar for dollar up to \$20,000.

Tickets and community partnership opportunities can be purchased by visiting www.wfco.org/vailluncheon or by contacting Sarah Braun at 303.285.2976 or sarahb@wfco.org.

Many thanks to our longtime partners The Vail Daily and The Club at Cordillera.

About The Women's Foundation of Colorado

In 2014, The Women's Foundation of Colorado granted more than \$1.3 million to dozens of agencies in communities across the state, achieving the highest level of granting in its history. Since 1987, WFCO has invested more than \$13 million in Colorado communities.

The mission of The Women's Foundation of Colorado is to build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential. We are committed to boldly leading systemic change to advance economic opportunity for all women and girls in Colorado; using research to build knowledge and guide action; building philanthropy that supports and champions women and girls in Colorado; demonstrating and promoting inclusiveness and commitment to a diversity of people, partners and ideas; and creating strategic partnerships throughout the state to service our mission.

#