



## **WOMEN IN SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS ALUMNAE GROUP PROGRESSES**

**MISSION:** To advance sustainability by empowering women to lead

CHICAGO, July 16 -- The Women in Sustainability Leadership Awards (WSLA,) *gb&d* magazine's top annual accolade, recognizes the most powerful women making a difference in the world through sustainability. The award was created by *gb&d* in 2014 to grow awareness, promote advancement, and support the development of women leaders.

During GreenBuild 2017, Rochelle Routman, Metroflor Corporation's chief sustainability officer, spearheaded the formation of the WSLA Alumnae Group, comprised of past winners, to extend the impact of the WSLA by creating a formal network that would enable the women to collaborate and together create positive change in the world, specifically through mentorship. By empowering even more women to lead, WSLA Alumnae Group is leveraging its collective knowledge, power and experience to cultivate the next generation of sustainability leaders.

Said Routman, "The members of the Alumnae Group are passionate and accomplished women who are true visionaries. They are also well organized and committed. Together, we have tremendous hope and excitement around the prospect of mentoring others in the sustainability field, and helping them succeed in their chosen role. This is truly a global effort, as we now have alumnae members representing several nations." The inaugural WSLA Alumnae Summit will be held in Chicago on November 13 coinciding with GreenBuild week as well as the fifth annual WSLA celebration, during which the 2018 class will be honored. A service project is also planned for the alumnae prior to the 2018 awards reception.

Several committees have already accomplished important steps toward achieving WSLA Alumnae Group's mission statement -- To advance sustainability by empowering women to lead. Communication platforms including a Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/WSLAGroup/> have been set in place on social media and through a database of all WSLA alumnae to engage them in the group's mission; this will enable information sharing about job, career and mentoring opportunities.

Additionally, the USGBC (Los Angeles chapter) has agreed to be the WSLA Alumnae Group's fiscal sponsor, which will provide the 501(c)3 framework needed to attract donations, foundation grants and other funding sources including corporate outreach.

Said *gb&d*'s **Laura Heidenreich**, president, "We remain committed to connecting the most powerful women at the forefront of sustainability through our WSLA network. The WSLA Alumnae Group will be a strategic asset for us to continue to recognize each other and keep pushing each other to stay the course."

The WSLA Alumnae Group encourages worthy candidates to be nominated for this year's [WSLA Awards](#) by the July 20 deadline. The award, now in its fifth year, is judged by *gb&d* magazine, members of the **Women in Sustainability Leadership Alumnae Group**, and leadership at the **USGBC**.

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