girl scouts
of eastern washington
and northern idaho

Retired NASA Astronaut Dr. Bonnie Dunbar to Speak at Girl Scout Luncheon March 26

Veteran of five space flights, accomplished engineering and science educator

(Spokane, Wash−Feb. 25, 2013): Retired NASA Astronaut Bonnie Dunbar, Ph.D., NAE, will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Girl Scout Spokane Community Leadership Luncheon event. The fundraising luncheon will be held Tuesday, March 26, 2013 from noon-1:15 p.m. at the Spokane Convention Center. Dr. Dunbar will speak about her experiences as a female astronaut and her passion for STEM education.

Virtually every female astronaut who has flown in space is a Girl Scout. Dr. Dunbar is a Girl Scout alumna and a Sunnyside, Wash. native. A veteran of five space flights, Dunbar is an accomplished engineering and science educator. An MD Anderson Professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Houston, Dunbar is also the Director of the University's STEM Center. She has devoted her life to furthering engineering and science education.

Dunbar will share her stories about leadership as a female astronaut, the importance of young women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and math and her leadership related to STEM education.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Dunbar to Spokane and for her to share her passion and inspiration for STEM education and careers," said Girl scouts Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho CEO Pam Lund. "Girl Scouts in our council are interested and participating in many elements of STEM learning, including annual workshops focused on STEM activities and careers, Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Award projects and competitive First Lego League teams. We anticipate a very large audience for Dr. Dunbar's presentation and encourage guests to reserve their tables early."

In addition to Dunbar's keynote address, local Girl Scouts who are participating in projects to further their Girl Scout journey and contribute to our community will share their Girl Scouting experiences.

There is no cost to attend the luncheon, but is an annual fundraising event for Girl Scouts Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. Guests will be asked to make a donation during the luncheon. As a fundraising event, we ask that each guest consider a gift of at least $101 in honor of Girl Scouting's 101st birthday. **This is a reservation only event and we will not be able to admit guests without a reservation**. Reservations will be accepted until March 15. To reserve a table for eight guests or to make an individual reservation please contact Lydia Duffy, GSEWNI events specialist, at 800-827-9478, ext. 204 or events@gsewni.org.

We would like to recognize our key event sponsors for this event: Numerica Credit Union (Gold Sponsor), The Kalispel Tribe of Indians/Northern Quest Resort and Casino/La Rive Spa (Gold Sponsor), Itron and TransCanada for their generous financial and community support.

About Bonnie Dunbar, Ph.D. NAE

Prior to joining the University of Houston, Dunbar was based in the Seattle area, consulting around the country and internationally on STEM education and space flight technology. A former President and CEO of the Museum of Flight in Seattle, Dunbar is a much beloved figure, inspiring young people, including legions of young girls and women wherever she goes.

Before joining Boeing, Dunbar owned her own aerospace and STEM education consulting company, Dunbar International LLC. Among her projects, she led the effort to bring a retiring Space Shuttle to Washington state and helped complete fundraising for Aviation High School, which is being co-located at the Seattle Museum of Flight. Previously, she was President and CEO of the Seattle Museum of Flight for five years. During her tenure at the museum, K-12 STEM programs were expanded to reach nearly 140,000 students per year. Dunbar also founded the Washington Aerospace Scholars program for high school juniors in partnership with NASA and the State of Washington and expanded participation in the Aviation Learning Center, the Aerospace Camp Experience and Challenger Learning Center.

As a NASA mission specialist astronaut and veteran of five space flights, Dunbar logged more than 50 days in space. Prior to working for NASA, Dunbar was a senior production operations research engineer with Rockwell International Space Division, where she helped develop equipment and processes for manufacturing the thermal protection system for the Space Shuttle. Dunbar received a Ph. D. in engineering from the University of Houston, master's and bachelor's degrees in Engineering from the University of Washington and graduated from the Kennedy School for Senior Managers in Government at Harvard University.

Dunbar is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Fellow and Life Member of the American Ceramic Society, Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, an elected member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2002.

She has been awarded the NASA Space Flight Medal five times, the NASA Exceptional Leadership Medal, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal and the Washington State Medal of Merit. For her service to engineering education, she was awarded the American Association of Mechanical Engineers Ralph Roe Award in 2009 and in 2012 was awarded the University of Washington's College of Engineering Diamond Award for lifetime public service. Dunbar also is a founding board member for the Washington State Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas. She holds seven honorary university doctoral degrees. In April 2013, she will be inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in Florida.

Dunbar grew up in the Yakima Valley of Washington state on a cattle ranch homesteaded by her parents in 1948. She learned to fly with the Rockwell Flying Club at the Orange County Airport in 1977 and maintains her pilot's license. In addition, she logged more than 1,000 hours as co-pilot in NASA T-38s as part of Spaceflight Readiness Training for the astronaut corps.

About Girl Scouts Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho

Girls are at the center of everything we do. Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls, the leading authority on girls' healthy development and is working with girls and women to transform the leadership landscape for girls into the next century. Girl Scouts Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho serves more than 8,200 girls and 2,600 adult volunteers. The council region encompasses 67,000 miles that includes 20 counties in central and eastern Washington and 10 counties in northern Idaho. *Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.*

Follow and "like" GSEWNI on Facebook (www.facebook.com/girlscouting), Twitter (GirlScoutsEWNI) and YouTube. For more information about the council and the many ways to be involved with GSEWNI, visit www.gsewni.org.

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