

DOE NEWS

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Shirley Olinger Named 2008 Woman of Achievement

Shirley Olinger has been named the U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory 2008 Woman of Achievement, based on her significant accomplishments to the Federal government, as well as her community. The Federal Women's Program National Women's History Month Committee made the award after considering several nominations for well-qualified and deserving candidates.

Olinger began her nuclear career at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard where she rose to head of the Radiological Technical division. She joined DOE in 1987, serving at Headquarters in a safety oversight role. Later, as a senior nuclear engineer at Savannah River, she provided program direction and oversight of reactors. At Rocky Flats, she held roles as the director of Safety and Health, deputy assistant manager of Environment, Safety and Health, deputy assistant manager for Planning & Integration, and acting assistant manager for Engineering. Olinger joined DOE's Richland Operations Office in 2001 as the assistant manager for Safety & Engineering. She later held roles as the lead for the risk-based end states initiative and assistant manager for the River Corridor. She joined DOE's Office of River Protection in 2004 as the deputy manager and then acting manager, until being named manager in November 2007.

Among her many awards, in 2007 Olinger received the President's Meritorious Rank Award.

A native of Hawaii, Olinger received her bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Hawaii (earning half of her credits from Purdue University). She and her husband have two children, Sean, 15, and Sarah, 11. Olinger serves on the Board of Directors for the Benton-Franklin United Way. She is active in her daughter's premier soccer and AAU basketball teams, as well as the children's schools and her church. She has been involved in mentoring programs for girls in math and science in Maryland, Colorado and Hawaii, and the Math and Science Camp for Girls in Golden, CO.

A ceremony to honor Olinger and other award nominees is scheduled for March 18 at 10 a.m. in the Battelle Auditorium, 902 Battelle Blvd. (park in front of the Research Operations Building or the Math Building, walk behind these buildings to get to the auditorium), with a reception to follow. Kimberly Camp, Executive Director of the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center, will be the keynote speaker.

The government-wide Federal Women's Program, initiated in 1980, includes various educational programs and role model/mentoring programs deployed by federally-employed women throughout communities across the nation.

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