AWIS Gravely Concerned about Sec. DeVos' Title IX Rollback

Washington, DC, November 16, 2018 – Susan Windham-Bannister, PhD, National Governing Board President of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) issued the following statement in response to the Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' proposed Title IX rules.

“As the leading advocate for women in STEM, AWIS strongly urges Secretary Betsy DeVos to uphold the Department of Education’s current national directive to ensure education free from discrimination and harassment. We are gravely concerned about the negative impact of the Secretary's decision to rollback these protections, which will threaten millions of students and employees in institutions of higher education, including thousands of AWIS Members, Chapters, Affiliates, Partners and allies. The proposed regulations will allow colleges and universities to walk away from their responsibilities to investigate claims of sexual harassment. Worse yet, the investigative process directed by the proposal actually creates the potential to re-traumatize victims. With so many brave survivors coming forward to share their #MeToo stories, the United States should be swiftly striking down sexual violence and harassment at every opportunity. Instead, this wrong-headed proposal does the complete opposite.”

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The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is a global network with 80 grassroots Chapters and Affiliates connecting more than 100,000 professionals in STEM with members, allies and supporters worldwide. Founded in 1971, AWIS has been the leading advocate for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to achieve business growth, social change, and innovation. We are dedicated to driving excellence in STEM by achieving equity and full participation of women in all disciplines and across all employment sectors. To learn more, visit www.awis.org and @awisnational.