

Girls in the Middle Conference speaker to be honored

Jill S. Tietjen, P.E., author, speaker and electrical engineer, will be the keynote speaker at the 12th Annual Girls in the Middle Conference on Saturday, March 6 at Otero Junior College. To welcome Tietjen to La Junta, and recognize the success of her recent book, "Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America" there will be an author reception in her honor at The Book Stop at the Curio Cabinet on Friday, March 5 from 5-6:30 p.m. The Book Stop at the Curio Cabinet is located at 106 West First Street in La Junta. The public is invited to attend the reception. There will be light refreshments and an opportunity to meet the author, purchase a book and have it autographed. The book was recently on the Denver Post Bestsellers list.

In a recent review by Jean E. Pouliot, Tietjen's book was touted as a celebration of the talented and courageous women who have often passed unnoticed in American history.

Pouliot writes: "Each of the book's 220+ pages is crammed with 10 or more vignettes describing remarkable women who have changed history, whether we knew it or not. The book is laid out in chronological order, starting in 1587 with the settling of Roanoke Island by Virginia Dare, among others and stretching to 2007, with the naming of Drew Gilpin Faust to the presidency of Harvard. Nearly every one of the 2000+ descriptions are accompanied by photographs or paintings made at the time of the women's

work. The women included are artists and entrepreneurs, athletes and aesthetes, scientists and executives, cooks and advocates."

Tietjen is scheduled to open the conference as the keynote speaker at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday in the OJC Student Center Banquet Room. Nancy Mitchell, a committee member for the conference, said that this will be Tietjen's second trip to La Junta to serve as the keynote speaker for the Girls in the Middle Conference.

"During our conference in 2001, Jill served as our keynote speaker. We are honored to once again have her join us in helping middle school girls realize the world of opportunity that awaits them in the fields of math, science and technology," said Mitchell. "From our past experience, we know that her positive energy and her ability to relate to the audience result in inspired and energized listeners. We feel confident that the 245 middle school girls who are registered for the conference will come away from her speech with a vision for what is possible for their lives."

Tietjen's published books include the "Setting the Record Straight" series (co-authored with Betty Reynolds), which explores the history of women's accomplishments in accounting, engineering, and professional achievement, and an introduction to engineering textbook (for use by college freshmen), "Keys to Engineering Success".

Tietjen is also a frequent keynote speaker at engineer-



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ing, science, and women's conferences and is often profiled in the media. She serves as an expert witness before public utility commissions and other government agencies. The culmination of Tietjen's diverse background is the new book "Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America," co-authored with Charlotte S. Waisman.

Tietjen graduated from the University of Virginia with a bachelor of science degree in applied mathematics and received her master's of business administration from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. She is a registered professional

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engineer in Colorado and lives in Greenwood Village.

During her professional career, Tietjen has written articles for and been profiled in the Magazine of the Society of Women Engineers, Graduating Engineer, U.S. Woman Engineer, Woman Engineer, and Engineering Horizons. She served as the 1991-1992 National President of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). In addition, she is a member of the Board of Directors for the Georgia Transmission Corporation of Tucker, Ga. Tietjen is a commissioner on the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET Inc., and served as the western zone vice president for the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

Tietjen is self-employed as the CEO of Technically Speaking, a national consulting company specializing in improving opportunities for women and girls to have more career options in technology.

The Girls in the Middle Conference has 245 middle school girls registered from nine schools in Southeastern Colorado. The conference provides the opportunity for middle school girls to meet women who are working professionals in careers that require an educational background in math, science, or technology, and to experience hands-on activities associated with those careers. Close to 60 professional women will be providing hands-on workshops for the girls to experience their careers.