TELLURIDE SCIENCE
& INNOVATION CENTER
ELEVATING SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY

Beth Willet
STEAM Advocate & Philanthropist

Beth Willett has been pursuing her passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) since she was a young child. After achieving a BS in Manufacturing Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Worcester Massachusetts in 1993 she then went on to complete her MS in Industrial Engineering from UMass in Amherst in 1995. Beth then enjoyed many years in a career in operations and manufacturing where she improved the manufacturing of a number of high technology products including electronic circuit boards, optical cutting tools and synthetic diamonds and abrasives for the mining and automotive industries. Her career included General Electric where she also received her black belt in Lean Six Sigma, a rigorous approach to using statistics to improve operational processes.

Beth then turned her passion towards her family, public school community, and a variety of philanthropic activities including being engaged with her alma mater, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) as Co Chair of the Women's Impact Network which provides pathways to advance women at WPI and has raised and awarded almost $1.8m in the last 8 years. And is also leading the WPI Ski Team Endowment to honor her collegiate experience and support a higher level of team alpine ski racing.

Since May of 2021 Beth has been serving on the Corporation Board of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Her role is to support STEM Pipeline K-12 and Collegiate development. She has been instrumental in the development of the Cape Cod Children's Museum exhibit "An interactive, educational, water exhibit in collaboration with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution exploring our connections with the ocean so intrinsically tied to our life here on Cape Cod." that will reach almost 50,000 visitors from around the world every year. And on the steering committee of the New England Chapter.

During 2014-20 Beth's contributions as a member of the Wellesley Education Foundation (WEF) serving as the STEM Chair and Co-Chair were significant for the K-12 STEM community. During this time she led four town wide STEM Expos that created an interactive science museum with 100+ exhibitors and workshop leaders for a day and attracted close to 4,000 attendees each year and benefited $60,000 back into the schools. She also was instrumental in organizing numerous career panels covering a variety of STEMich paths (highlighting minorities in STEM), math enrichment activities, and coding workshops. The high point of her experience was collaborating with the Wellesley Public School STEAM faculty to celebrate Mass STEM Week for "See Yourself in STEM" during school hours with a scientist from the American Museum of Natural History who spoke to 4,700 students K-12 over 19 sessions in just 5 days.