



WOMEN IN
BIG DATA

GLOBAL NEWSLETTER

To Connect, Cultivate and Champion the Success of Women in Big Data

Find one of us in your *local community*.

Have an idea for an article or a suggestion? Send to management@womeninbigdata.org.

What's New?

We are deeply saddened by the United States Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade and grieving for the loss of reproductive rights in the U.S. Simply put, our daughters will have fewer rights than their mothers.

We call on all allies of human rights to use your purchasing power, your vote, your positions of leadership, your right to protest, and your voices to fight back against the patriarchy.

RESPECT WOMENS' VOICES AND RIGHTS AT HOME, AT WORK, IN SCHOOLS, AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, IN C-SUITES, AND ON BOARDS.

Did you know Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month was May 1 to May 31, 2022?

As of this year, May 2, 2022, it is now known as the **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month**, as follows:

"The Asian American community is diverse, dynamic, and growing, encompassing a wide range of experiences from Native Hawaiians, to 1800s' pioneers from East Asia and the Philippines, to immigrants from South and Southeast Asia."

Over the last few months, members of WiBD in various countries around the world have accomplished milestones in strengthening their chapters and communities by more impactful training, and even face-to-face networking events.

Our WiBD mentoring initiative continues strong with eight mentoring programs and 256 participants to wrap up by August 2022. New mentoring programs will kick in for Fall 2022.

In This Issue

- Get to know Naomi Molefe
- Mentoring Program Update
- Meet new Women in Big Data co-directors
- Women in Big Data around the globe
- And more...

Around the World

For upcoming events, click [here](#)

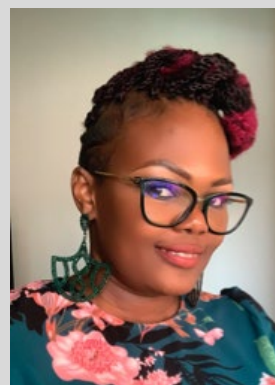


Have You Met Her?

Let's get to know Naomi Molefe

Carrying the roles of South Africa's WiBD (WiBDSA) Chapter Director and a member of the Global Executive Committee, **Naomi Molefe** is an ambitious leader bringing light to the Women in Technology and Big Data movement by focusing on advocacy, involvement, and empowerment within the WiBDSA and the global community.

Throughout her career, Naomi has navigated from working in research psychology to applying those skills to non-profit and private sector work, all while buttressing



Naomi Molefe
WiBD Chapter Director,
South Africa

her humanities studies with a master's degree in business. Her hard work opened up opportunities such as service management design, applied research, and business process optimization competencies, requiring "one to question, re-engineer, and provide human-centered solutions."

Naomi currently “has a keen interest in how the youth of SA is empowered in taking the country forward and making sure that [South Africa] remains competitive in business and other economic activities.” Following these very words, the SA team’s work has an evident drive to help future generations succeed in the world of AI, which can be seen in their success in “partnering with the AI Business school,” and leveraging their “soft-skills-focused training engagement to help women be more confident and affirmative in the skills they acquire”.

Naomi’s achievements within WiBDSA and globally are nothing short of uplifting and inspirational, and WiBD was lucky to have the opportunity to both meet and introduce her to the rest of the community.

To learn more about Naomi’s goals, inspirations, and current involvement in WiBD, check out the [full interview](#).

WiBD Global Mentoring Update

Off To A Good Start

Deborah Sgro - Women in Big Data Mentoring Director

You may remember, Women in Big Data commemorated International Women’s Day 2022 by announcing the launch of its Global Mentoring Initiative. Our organization offered eight mentoring programs, four of which are newly designed programs. Here’s what was accomplished these last three months.

Data Science Olympians

Data Science Olympians is one of the new programs offered this spring by the Women in Big Data Bay Area Chapter thanks to the efforts of **Rupa Gangatirkar** and **Srabasti Banerjee**. Eight teams consisting of fifty-three people were formed to advance technology and leadership skills through data science contest participation. The program is currently on-going and will conclude in August.

Emerging Technologist

Emerging Technologist is another new program offered by Women in Big Data this summer. Thirty-two mentors and mentees are engaged in activities for data science career development. Managed by **Deborah Sgro**, this program will conclude in late August.

Gayatri

Gayatri, a program to guide and nurture future tech leaders, is providing a six-month

mentoring engagement for two new pairs of participants. Thanks goes to **Himashinee Venkatesh** and **Sowmya Moni** from the Women in Big Data India Chapter.

Getting From Here To There

Getting From Here To There recently concluded a three month session. Nine participants successfully worked with **Erika Lunceford** and **Deborah Sgro**, from the Women in Big Data Bay Area Chapter, to develop skills necessary to create and execute a career advancement or new job search strategy.

Leadership Circle

Leadership Circle, a new invitation-only program designed to recognize and honor the contribution of our regional and chapter leadership, was attended by forty-one participants. During this three-month program, eight small groups discussed **Dr. Ellen Snee’s** book “Lead: How Women In Leadership Claim Their Authority” and attended two fireside chat events. Thanks to **Shala Arshi** and **Tina Tang**, of our Executive Committee and board, for initiating this program.



Global Mentoring Initiative

Mentor in Tech International

Mentor in Tech International was offered by the EMEA region of Women in Big Data through the successful efforts of **Elena Fedotova**, **Marina Alekseeva**, and **Olga Kasatkina**. Fifty-six mentors and mentees participated in this program focused on the development of technical, leadership, product management, program management and/or entrepreneurial skills.

Shakti

Shakti, also offered by the Women in Big Data India Chapter, is currently supporting two women returning to a data career after an employment break. This 4-6 month program is managed by Srinthi Srinivasan, **Meenakshi Arun**, **Vidhya Kidambi**, and **Sowmya Moni**.

Toronto Mentoring

Toronto Mentoring, a newly offered program from the Women in Big Data Toronto Chapter, was

launched through the efforts of **Jasmine Sinden** and **Kaylie Tam**. Twenty-six mentors and mentees participated in this three-month program, which was opened to Women in Big Data Canadian members for career advancement and skill development guidance.

Many of these programs will be offered again starting in September, and we will be adding new programs at that time as well. Chapter and regional leaders are welcomed to contact mentoring@womeninbigdata.org if you have an idea for a mentoring program. A Mentoring Admin will partner you through the program design, creation, execution and management.

With this strong start, there is a lot of reason to expect even more from the Women in Big Data mentoring program.

Women in Big Data Regions/Chapters

Americas Region

The Americas Region Welcomed New WiBD Co-directors!

The image displays five separate announcement cards for new Women in Big Data (WiBD) leaders in the Americas region. Each card features a circular profile picture of the individual, their name, title, and a short bio. The cards are arranged in two rows: three in the top row and two in the bottom row. Each card also includes the WiBD logo and the website womeninbigdata.org.

- Júlia Colleoni Couto**: Welcome WiBD new Chapter Co-Director. Excited to announce a new Co-Director for the WiBD Brazil Chapter. In addition Júlia is also a Professor at Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul.
- Meera Mohan**: Welcome WiBD new Chapter Co-Director. Excited to announce a new Co-Director for the WiBD St. Louis Chapter in the U.S. In addition Meera is also Practice Manager - Data and AI at Insight.
- Odessa Reyno**: Welcome WiBD new Chapter Director. Excited to announce a new Director for the WiBD Southern California (LA) Chapter in the U.S. In addition Odessa is also Associate Director, Digital Revenue Strategy & Planning at Fox Corporation.
- Alexis Shoobe**: Welcome WiBD new Chapter Co-Director. Excited to announce a new Co-Director for the WiBD Atlanta Chapter in the U.S. In addition Alexis is also Analytics Engineer at Bark.
- Surekha Reddy**: Welcome WiBD new chapter co-director. Proud to announce a new co-director for WiBD Northwest chapter in US. In addition Surekha is also General Manager, DSG Solutions at Intel Corporation.

Highlights from the Northwest Chapter

New team/networking. Their latest event with a fireside chat by [Huma Abidi](#) and [Meena Arunachalam](#).



Meet Our Team

Surekha Reddy, Chapter Director
Meena Arunachalam, Chapter Advisor
Geetanjali Krishna, Mentoring Coordinator
Sonalı Pagade, Program Coordinator
Archana Komirisetty, Community Outreach
Rhea Oommen, Student Ambassador
Stuti Haresh Patel, Technology Champion
Mrinalini Singh Thakur, Social Media Specialist

Thanks to Meena for her many years of service to the NW chapter as a director and mentor.



Huma Abidi
Senior Director
AI SW Products & Engineering
Intel Corporation

Fireside Chat

Meena Arunachalam
Director & Principal Engineer
AI and Analytics Group
Intel Corporation

AI Everywhere for Everyone!
"Challenges and Opportunities for AI Software and Hardware at Scale"

Our June Event

A Fireside chat event with our Esteemed technologists [Huma Abidi](#) and [Meena Arunachalam](#) from Intel Corporation. A big thank you to the speakers and the committee for making this event a grand success.



Our First Networking Event

Our first in-person committee networking event was getting to know each other and celebrating the committee formation with a cake cutting by our student ambassador Rhea. Lots of storytelling, fun, and laughs. Our next exciting activity is creating a "Mission" for NW Chapter; stay tuned ...

MEETUP LINK

<https://www.meetup.com/Women-in-Big-Data-NorthWest/>

First In-Person Event

Thank you **Neil Metzler** for headlining our first in-person event in the Silicon Valley chapter and covering "Owning your career in the future of Work".



Presentation for Career Advancement

Presentation by **Deborah Sgro** to learn strategies for advancing your career by bringing value to your organization.



Australia Region



Podcast: Women Count

Women Count is a podcast series organized by WiBD Australia that takes a close look at the skills and expertise of inspiring female leaders and data scientists. Our goal is to help you be the best version of yourself and excel in your careers as we know you can. This is a podcast by women and for women and examines a huge range of experiences in the workforce from across the globe. Check out the [Website](#), [Linkedin](#) or [RSS Feed](#).

Current Episodes



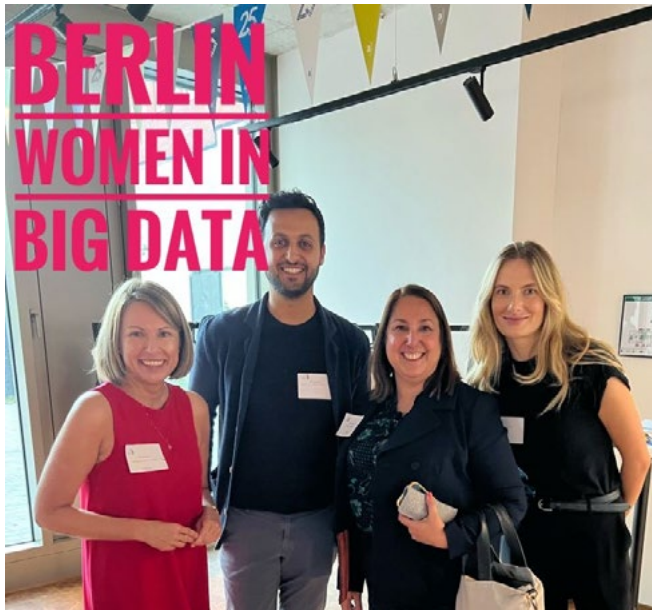
Featured **Cathryn Nicholls** on the **Women Count Podcast Show**. Cathryn is a change leader and a life mentor. She shared intriguing stories of life lessons learned, mastering her craft, and her passion for escalating women to their highest potential.



Featured **Monica Castillo** on the **Women Count Podcast Show**. Monica is a data analyst striving to make a difference through social change. She shared her story of elevating her mathematics and data science skills to inform decision making in social policy and make a real difference in people's lives.

Highlights

- New Chapter Launches: Berlin and Kenya
- Relaunched Madrid with new leadership
- Relaunched Dusseldorf as NRW
- Russia Women Talk
- Munich Afterwork Event with SAP
- Brussels Podcast
- Paris BigData AI event
- Berlin KickOff Event




The Women in Big Data Berlin Panel Discussion Took Place!

“But I am not really a “networking” person”: what a great sentence to start the Women in Big Data Berlin Panel discussion. The spontaneous decision to meet turned out to be an exemplary idea. The CapSAP Family is vast, and it was a great experience to meet real people rather than team avatars. What is Networking? Well, the very first network you built was at school! Think of all your peers, teachers, friends, neighbors, and family! Yes, indeed, they form your first network, regardless of whether or not you consider yourself a networking person. Networking is the exchange of information and ideas among people with a common profession or special interest. A network of ten starts simply with a single point of common ground, such as hobbies or strategies, and professionals use networking to expand their circles of acquaintances, find out about job opportunities in their fields, and increase their awareness of news and trends in their fields or the greater world. Thanks to many who joined the event and special thanks to **Tina Rosario**, who traveled from Paris for the event. Tina leads EMEA region Women in Big Data, and she noted, “We are a diverse community and of course we accept males; only in this way can we be enriched while amazing things happen!” [Full post.](#)

India Chapter

**WIBD STUDENT CHAPTER:
JSSATE Noida**

Mr. Anurag Singh Waliya
Senior Staff Software Engineer,
Labs Team, Druva Inc.



WHEN : Saturday, 14 May 2022
at 10:30 Hrs

A Talk on Real World Applications of
Data Science in the Industry

Zoom Link to join : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9499945243?pwd=ejV6UGNhdEdPdENRYjU4TWVhQVZpZz09>

A Talk on Real World Applications of Data Science

A talk on real World Applications of Data science in the Industry with Anuragh Singh Waliya on the 14th of May 2022.

AWS USER GROUPS MUMBAI
presents

SHETALKS

TECH TALKS WORKSHOP
FIRECHAT QUIZ

9TH APRIL, 2022
2-5 PM IST

In association with Our Community Partners

SHETALKS

A demographic of the community partner for SHETALKS, organized by AWS user Groups Mumbai.

MOU Signed Between IOE Thapathali Campus and WiBD Nepal

Collective team efforts lead to greater impact and a better future!

Nepal's WiBD Chapter is proud to announce that the Institute of Engineering Thapathali Campus entered into a partnership with WiBD Nepal for our upcoming College Ambassadors Program. Thank you, Thapathali Campus, for signing the MOU and becoming our first collaborator in the program!

Two students from the campus will now be selected as College Ambassadors. They will soon be organizing various events for their peers to provide data literacy and help start a career in data!



You can also serve as your respective college's ambassador. Take advantage of this opportunity; our college ambassador program is jam-packed with learning and growth opportunities for college students interested in data science!



In-Person Meetup

With South Asia Lead Anjani Phuyal, Program Managers Astha Sharma and Melisha Ghimire, new members, and the entire team, there were tons of fun activities, gifts, and appreciation.

Initiation of #BreakTheBias

Highlighting stories of women leaders at WiBD Nepal Members and inspiring women without limiting to one day or month.



How Would You Break the Bias in the World?



I would BreakTheBias by helping women and girls understand more about data and use that information in improving governance. I would help women and girls get connected with each other through digital technology. Women and girls are structurally left out, strategically less prioritized as data and digital world is taken as technical domain and termed as least of 'Women and Girls' cup of tea!

Sajana Maharjan Amatya

Project Director
Data for Development Project
The Asia Foundation



How Would You Break the Bias in the World?



I want to BreakTheBias by helping women to overcome their fears and build their confidence in achieving their goals and aspirations.

Santoshi Gahatraj

Co-Director
Women in Big Data Nepal



Promotional Partner for the Nepal Cloud Summit 2022

Outstanding Nepal Cloud professionals organized this event and provided attendees with unique and innovative ideas surrounding computing, Azure, AI, and Machine Learning.

The Collaboration Partner for AWS User Group Nepal Meetup

This event was a great opportunity for AWS practitioners in Nepal to learn together whilst connecting with fellow professionals.



The Announcement of Women in Big Data Nepal's First College Ambassador Program

The program is a college selection that has been MOU signed, with the backend work nearly completed.

"Modernizing Data Warehouse on AWS"

Speaker Miss Sridevi Murugayen joined the second Speaker Series with her session "Modernizing Data Warehouse on AWS."

WOMEN IN BIG DATA
WORLDWIDE

3.30 PM | APR 16

WEBINAR:
WOMEN IN TECH
INNOVATION

1
DAY TO GO

Farzana Afrin Tisha
Head of Cloud Business
Brain Station 23 Ltd.

Samiha Tahsin
Co-Founder & CEO
Bonton Connect

Tasfia Tasbin
Co-Founder & CEO
Marcopolo.ai

Join slack:<https://tinyurl.com/slackwibd>

The Women in Tech Innovation Webinar

This Webinar took place on the 16th of April, 2022.



Events

Click [here](#) for more events. And click [here](#) for the blog coverage of the events.

Learn More

- Follow us on [Twitter @ datawomen](#)
- Join our [WiBD LinkedIn Group Forum](#) to officially become a WiBD member
- Visit the [WiBD LinkedIn page](#)
- Add WiBD to your [LinkedIn profile](#)
- Post WiBD Pictures on [Facebook](#)
- Instagram [@womeninbigdataglobal](#) #womeninbigdata
- Find jobs on the [WiBD Job Board](#)
- Post Videos on [YouTube](#)
- Bookmark our website www.womeninbigdata.org
- Sign up for your [Local Meetup](#)

