



# National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

**Cathi Rodgveller**

## **2014 Unsung Hero Award**



Cathi Rodgveller, who worked as a recruiter and counselor of nontraditional careers in Seattle School District, is the Director and Founder of Inspiring Girls Now In Technology Evolution (IGNITE), a nonprofit that boasts programming in schools worldwide, educating approximately 2,000 girls every year. As a member of the Worlds Affairs Council, Ms. Rodgveller has 23 schools implementing IGNITE in Africa and 35 chapters worldwide, including in Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, and Greece.

IGNITE's program connects school-age girls to professional women in STEM careers who act as role models and mentors. IGNITE has educated and empowered more than 25,000 young women in middle school and high school to pursue their education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). In the Seattle School District alone, female participation in technology classes soared from 10 percent to 50 percent since the start of the IGNITE program. IGNITE is a program for any school.

Ms. Rodgveller's vision is to have an IGNITE chapter in every school worldwide, so that every girl receives the information, support, and encouragement she needs to develop confidence in a nontraditional field and thus her ability to earn a living wage. She is tireless and unwavering in her commitment to see this dream become a reality. As a champion in Washington State, she keeps awareness of sex equity at the front of all educators' minds.