

## C3E Symposium Blog

At the Clean Energy Education & Empowerment (“C3E”) Networking Reception & Dinner, Jane Woodward, Founder and CEO of MAP, kickstarted the C3E Women in Clean Energy Symposium (“Symposium”) with a warm welcome at the Foster Art Museum. At the Foster Art Museum, one of only two museums dedicated to living artists, Woodward’s advice could be summed up in one word: ambush. Taking her advice to heart, I mustered up the courage to “ambush” her and other speakers at the Symposium in order to make a connection and express my gratitude for all the amazing women sharing their time and stories with the rest of the attendees. It was truly an honor to be in the presence of such accomplished, yet humble and generous women.

The following day, Woodward opened up as the first keynote speaker, sharing her journey as a former geologist and now successful businesswoman, giving several pieces of advice, one of which was to focus. She mentioned that she, as well as other women at the Symposium, were probably always doing so much, partly due to the fact that she (and others) were probably the smartest ones in the room. However, she encouraged us all to focus and, even if we have the abilities to excel at various other commitments, take on only what we were really passionate about.

The Symposium recognized eight outstanding mid-career women in the energy industry. Of the awardees, Ms. Elizabeth A. “Betsy” Moler truly deserved the C3E Lifetime Achievement Award for she is a physical representation of the potential women have to reach higher places of leadership in our country. With her no-nonsense attitude, Moler served as Former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, Chairwoman of The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”), and more. From the lessons she has learned she mentioned that hard work definitely pays off if you are lucky. At her time at FERC, she created competitive markets, such as the sale of electricity at wholesale rates. In regards to challenges she has faced as a female leader, she noticed many occasions in the electric and oil/gas sector where men greatly outnumbered women. Thus, she started off that it was a great pleasure for her to speak at such a Symposium with predominately female participants.

Not only did I learn some much from the exceptional C3E speakers and awardees, there was a section “Building Communities” hosted by LinkedIn’s Jenny Hou and Peggy Brannigan in order to train attendees to use social media and professional networking sites to help promote environmental sustainability and foster online communities. With the growing ubiquitousness of technology and the growing importance of networking sites to interconnect individuals with similar interests, Jenny stressed some learned skills (having a clear purpose, consistent messaging, survey correspondence, etc.). For any organization, I think it would be great for there to be a women’s group, for female professionals to connect and empower one another within an organization, especially in a traditional male-dominant industry. LinkedIn is a great tool for such groups to utilize in accomplishing certain tasks and objectives. For example, through the LinkedIn mobile application, I was able to easily connect with the other attendees near me (also on the application).

During the Symposium, a common topic touched upon the female speakers and awardees was the significance of one's own personal health. It is easy for female professionals to work hard and long hours, especially if their work is of great interest and positive impacts their communities. However, most of the speakers urged the attendees to prioritize their health. No woman can make a difference and change the world if she is ill. By valuing one's health and family, one can have the energy and support to work hard and make a difference.

One awardee encouraged us to learn to say yes with confidence. However, she advised us to make lists of things to do and not to do, relating back to Woodward's advice of learning to focus and commit ourselves to only a few things that we are passionate about (and that are related to our career or potential career). Finally, she urged us to take care of ourselves. My health should not be taken for granted, and it is critical to remember to get adequate rest and consume nutritious meals on a regular basis.

Another collective piece of advice was to be bold and take risks. One speaker advised us to step outside of our comfort zones and take risks. She cautioned that if we felt too comfortable, then that probably meant we were not growing or were moving backwards. The introvert inside me panicked, but I understood the meaning of her words. Being complacent and never seeking new opportunities will not help me advance in my career. By taking risks, I can open doors to opportunities that otherwise would not have been available. Comfort and growth do not coexist. Liji Thomas, Head of Diversity and Inclusion at Southern California Edison, encouraged us to boldly step into our purpose, as the two most important days of our lives were when we were born into this world, and the day we realize why we were.

The most memorable panel was definitely was the last panel, Women Helping Women, featuring four amazing panelists: Lene Hviid, Jennifer Rockwood, Liji Thomas, and Sarah Torkamani. Liji pointed out a fundamental issue that seems to hinder young female professionals. And that was she noticed that women tend to be over-mentored and under-sponsored. Sarah added saying that while mentors are important as they talk and give relevant advice, sponsors are the ones who talk about you to others. Sponsors extend their own social capital because they got to know you and want to represent you. As a young female professional, I am more motivated to find my own sponsors and hopefully, sponsor other female professionals throughout my career.