



**Media Contact:**

Rae Moss, MSA, (509) 376-6522, [Rae\\_Moss@rl.gov](mailto:Rae_Moss@rl.gov)

**For Immediate Release:**

August 4, 2016

## MSA'S SYNERGY NETWORK HOSTS WOMEN'S PANEL

**KENNEWICK, Wash.** – Nearly 300 people attended the MSA Synergy Network women's panel discussion on "The Role of Mentoring in Career Success" Tuesday night in Kennewick. Attendees included representatives from all Hanford contractors and various businesses and organizations throughout the community. The panel included influential leaders involved in the Hanford mission, including:

*Stacy Charboneau*, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations, Department of Energy – Environmental Management; *Joyce Connery*, Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board; *Diahann Howard*, Director of Economic Development and Governmental Affairs, Port of Benton; *Peggy McCullough*, Project Director, Bechtel National Inc., Waste Treatment Plant and *Alex Smith*, Manager, Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program.

The five panelists shared their knowledge and experience, and answered questions on mentoring and career growth from the Synergy Network and the audience. On the importance of mentors, whether formal or informal, Chairman Connery shared, "If you can't see it, then you can't be it." Panelist Diahann Howard reminded us to look inward as well, "Attitude is the difference. Have a positive attitude - an attitude of learning and an attitude of gratitude."

Although she couldn't be in attendance, United States Senator Patty Murray sent a letter to "applaud the efforts of this panel to bridge the generational gap amongst women...and our commitment to empower and develop future leaders." Panelist Alex Smith reminded everyone that while finding mentors is an important part of developing your skills, you should also look outside of your organization for mentors who can help give you perspective. Peggy McCullough urged everyone to be open to opportunities that present themselves and to "say yes if you can."

Stacy Charboneau said that the most important piece of advice she has for those who aspire to reach their own leadership potential is to know what their personal values are and to make professional decisions with those in mind.

MSA's Synergy Network is a company-wide effort recently launched and designed to empower and educate female employees. The Synergy Network is a forum to build connections and provide opportunities for professional and personal growth and development.

###

### About MSA

Mission Support Alliance, a team of [Lockheed Martin](#), [Jacobs Engineering](#) and [Centerra Group](#), has responsibility for the Mission Support Contract at the Hanford Site. MSA provides a number of cross-cutting services to the DOE and other contractors at the Hanford Site to facilitate cleanup activities. MSA is responsible for areas such as site infrastructure, utilities, transportation, environmental integration, safety, emergency services and training, external affairs, information management and portfolio management. MSA: Partnering to move the mission forward. <http://msa.hanford.gov/msa>