|  |
| --- |
| **Jan Wachholz** |

**Nominee:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Mgr, Multi-Cultural Marketing** |

**Title/Company:**

|  |
| --- |
| **PNW Chapter: Joni Pierce & Theressa Dulaney** |

**Submitted by:**

Please complete this form and return to chapters@wict.org by COB **September 30.**

The **Chapter Leader of the Year** will be awarded to one individual who is a current voting member of chapter board. The current Chapter President is NOT eligible. This award will recognize the leader who has demonstrated the WICT Touchstones of Leadership in their local chapter.

Each submission will be rated on the [WICT Touchstones of Leadership](http://www.wict.org/about/touchstones/Pages/default.aspx#.U-PZxfldVqU) criteria. The nominator must address each area and provide one (1) specific example. *No more than 200 words per attribute.*

* **Know Yourself** - You must understand who you are before you can decide who you want to be. Take stock of your strengths and weaknesses, and understand your limitations. Set realistic goals for yourself, keeping in mind that a balance between work and life makes for a healthy leader. Maintain your own morals, values and ethics, so you can hold yourself to the high standards you set. Unleash the leader within you, taking control of your career and steering it in the precise direction you want to go.

*Jan has continued to be one of the Pacific Northwest Chapters strongest board members. Her commitment is unwavering. Jan recognizes that her strengths lie in communication, project management, and connecting with others. Earlier this year, we struggled with general board member task execution. We had several board members that were working through significant personal and professional challenges. Jan was quick to step-up and assist to ensure that we had quality events and activities for our members. She assisted with Q1 event planning & execution, recruited new 2 new VP-level members, and offer her network to the sponsorship leads to support our Chapter’s financial goals.*

* **Communicate** - The strongest communicators do more than just talk. Aspire to deliver a speech powerful enough to inspire an entire auditorium or to put pen to paper in such a way that others can be rallied into action through the power of your words. Learn to negotiate for the best possible outcomes with both logic and compassion. The ability to do all this will make you a communicator who embodies conviction and passion - qualities a great leader needs to succeed.

*As the PNW Communications Chair, Jan excels in both written and verbal communication. What Jan does that set’s herself apart from others, is that she continually reaches out to help her fellow board members to ensure that they can meet their deliverables. For example, for our most recent book club, she recognized that her peer was struggling with coordination. She sent emails to check in, reminded her peer of key steps and timing, and offered to help gather a few key resources. She also looped in others so we could help as well.*

* **Listen** - Strive to be an active listener who processes what is being conveyed and learn from people through their words. It is by listening with your heart, as well as your head, that you will build lasting relationships strengthening your cohort and helping others around you to grow along the way.

*Jan has a great intuition. She listens to conversations and reads between the lines on email to understand how to support our board members and chapter members. Jan uses what she hears to advocate for the issues that are important to our team and members. We recently had a board member that was professionally impacted by the changes in which companies could be represented by WICT and which could not. One of the companies that is no longer eligible for WICT membership happens to be a key customer of one of our board members. Jan listened and advocated to get help so that her peer knew how to manage her relationship with her customer and represent WICT well in the process.*

* **Connect** - You cannot move forward without a keen understanding of your network – the people you work with and the industry you work in. Immerse yourself in the economics and business practices that affect your company, clients, and colleagues. Keep your ear to the ground. Be aware of your competition and gain the upper hand. Build a support system for yourself and those within your community. Great leaders get connected and stay connected, using every ounce of information to their advantage.

*She has used her network to first ask two new female VPs in the Comcast Seattle Region to become members. She is partnering with Theressa and Joni to also request their involvement as advisors and/or mentors in our Chapter mentoring program.*

* **Be A Catalyst** - Progress is never made by standing still or by relying on the same old ideas. As a leader you must push the envelope to transform our industry with innovative concepts that are bigger and better than ever before. Take initiative. Raise the bar. Demand equality on all fronts and embrace diversity. Above all, never accept less respect than you offer others, because change can only take hold if it is grounded in respect.

*As mentioned earlier, it’s been a difficult year for several of our board members. They have gone through challenging events that made participating with WICT more difficult. Although we’ve endured some logistical and support issues through this year, it is board members like Jan than kept the machine going. Jan was quick to recognize when a peer was struggling, she alerted others and asked for help, and identified ways that she could jump in and assist with events, extra communication, and support for our peers that were working through life events.*

* **Be Fearless** - To be a great leader, look fear in the eye and turn it to your advantage as the force driving you into uncharted territory. Use the adrenaline to keep climbing the corporate ladder. Don't surrender or retreat. Commit to your vision and believe in it above everything else. Others will sense your conviction and be willing to follow - without fear.

*Jan is not afraid to be open and honest about her opinions. We appreciate that she is willing to bring an alternative perspective and to challenge the status quo as we talk about what programming is relevant to our members, if we are not dreaming big enough on our event execution, and if there is a better way of doing things. Her historic knowledge of WICT and our Chapter, coupled with a passion to always improve and try new things is an asset to our team.*

* **Inspire** - Rally those around you to support your vision. Be a mentor, a guide, and a role model - one who learns from what she teaches. Help those around you achieve their full potential with a helping hand that paves the way for future leaders. Be dynamic and strong, and you will inspire others to embrace your vision as the one they want to be part of, and the one they choose to follow.

*Jan sets a great example with her project management skills and sense of accountability by ensuring that she hits her own deadlines and reminds others of key deadlines. Most importantly, she offers to help by pitching in for event planning, recruiting new members, or identifying a more qualified person to help with event execution. Jan is willing to do small tasks and brainstorm big ideas to add value to our members. She also was one of three board members to manage our mentoring program in 2015.*