

LOCAL NEWS

Bahamas' Sonia is selected for International Women's programme



SONIA BROWN
Project manager at Atlantis,
Paradise Island

A BAHAMIAN woman has been selected for the prestigious International Women's Forum Fellows programme.

Sonia Brown is among 16 women chosen for the programme that teaches up and coming women leaders the

skills, savvy and know-how to break through the "glass ceiling" in their respective industries.

Mrs Brown, Project manager at Atlantis, Paradise Island, and the 15 other women will participate in the 12-month

programme "that is reinforcing its own commitment to workforce diversity and helping women from all backgrounds achieve their leadership goals".

Enabling cross-fertilisation of ideas and sharing of global

perspectives, the 2002-2003 Fellows comprise the most diverse class ever, said an Atlantis press release.

The class includes corporate executives, engineers, community activists and public affairs specialists who not only

represent a broad range of career paths but also diverse cultures.

Demonstrating the Leadership Foundation's commitment to work for the benefit of women worldwide, as well as in each American community, some of the "firsts" of the 2002-2003 Fellows Class include the first Tanzanian and Native American participants.

Before joining Atlantis, Mrs Brown was an engineer for the Ministry of Works and Utilities.

A Registered Professional Engineer, she is licensed to practice in Florida.

She is the Immediate Past President of the Bahamas Society of Engineers (an organisation that she helped found in 1998). Her tenure included a cooperative agreement with the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and a 65 per cent increase in membership.

Mrs Brown's participation in the IWF Leadership Foundation Fellows Programme has been made possible through the generous support of the Crothers Foundation, the Shirley Oakes Butler Charitable Trust and Ernst and Young Chartered Accountants.

According to *Fortune* magazine, "78 per cent of CEO's attribute their ultimate success to having a mentor". The IWF Leadership Foundation Fellows Programme is based on the premise that having a knowledgeable willing senior person available to listen, assist and guide is critical to the development of leadership talent wherever it is found.

"This year we have reached deeply into the world's stores of talent and have composed a Fellows class so rich in talent, so diverse in backgrounds that we are sure that this will be a one of a kind world class experience for the Fellows, the Mentors and our IWF members," said Karyl Innis, president, IWF Leadership Foundation.

Normally each year, 12-15 women from around the world are selected by the Leadership Foundation to participate in the Fellows programme. Over the course of 12 months, the Fellows attend week-long training classes on the campuses of both Harvard University in Massachusetts and the University of Cambridge in Cambridge, England.

Fellows also are matched with a woman mentor and participate in specialised training sessions during two international symposiums.

The 2002-2003 Fellows Class will attend the IWF World Leadership Conference and Gala in Mexico City, and an executive development-training programme in Washington, DC.

Founded in 1990, the Leadership Foundation is the educational and charitable arm of the International Women's Forum, a global association of more than 3,800 top women leaders from 20 countries. The mission of the Leadership Foundation, based in Washington DC, is to channel the experience and expertise of IWF members to benefit women worldwide.

The Leadership Foundation Fellows Programme is the only leadership training of its kind in the world, designed for women of ethnic, professional and geographic diversity. Aimed at high potential women who have the ability to excel at the highest levels of their organisations, the Fellows Programme sustains, grooms and promotes up-and-coming women leaders.

Consisting of 28 days over the course of the programme year (October-September), the Fellows participate in:

- Six days of coaching with an IWF mentor, who has achieved a distinct level of leadership
- One Global Conference and one week of Executive Development Training in Washington, DC
- One week of customised leadership training at Harvard University's John F Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- A tailored four-day global management course at the University of Cambridge's Judge Institute on Management Studies, Cambridge, England.