

# WEFTEC® 2015 celebrates women

**S**cience, technology, engineering, and math historically have attracted fewer women; the water sector is no exception. But with more women attending and presenting at WEFTEC, the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) has decided to introduce two new events to encourage women to share their successes and discuss their challenges.

The Mix with Members reception on Sunday, Sept. 27, will include the Women in Water community, and the first annual WEFTEC Breakfast With Women Water Leaders will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

"Women do face different hurdles at various points in their careers," said Karen Pallansch, CEO of Alexandria (Va.) Renew Enterprises. "We can share with each other what any peer group would share regarding management, engineering, and communications issues faced and how those challenges were met. We can also provide a space to share ideas and launch new initiatives, and can help one another when we are challenged in making the right decisions for our work-life situations."

## WEFTEC Breakfast With Women Water Leaders

Pallansch will serve as co-moderator and lead a table discussion during the WEFTEC



**Debra Shore, commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will present the keynote address at the WEFTEC Breakfast With Women Water Leaders. Shore has been a strong advocate for cleaning up the Chicago waterways and for resource recovery, including the reuse of treated water and the generation of biogas. She also serves as president of the board of directors for the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership.**

Breakfast With Women Water Leaders. She began working in the water sector in 1989, starting at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and then moving on to Alexandria Renew (then known as

the Alexandria Sanitation Authority). As the utility changed to meet federal and state regulations, Pallansch found opportunities for professional growth and moved up the ranks to CEO.