

## **FORWARD kickoff event set for Sept. 4**

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The NDSU FORWARD project is scheduled to hold its annual Kick-Off and Celebration of Faculty Advancement on Wednesday, Sept. 4, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the President's House.

The event will include recognition of the Department of Computer Science for its selection by the Commission on the Status of Women Faculty to receive the annual departmental equity award. The computer science department was selected from among three nominated departments based on initiatives to retain, promote and advance women faculty through specific, departmentally based efforts and activities. The award includes \$5,000 that is provided by the Provost's Office for use by the recipient department.

The FORWARD project is entering its sixth year, and work will focus on finalizing the institutionalization of the programs and initiatives that have characterized FORWARD. The sixth year will operate as an unfunded extension of the original five-year National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant.

The effort to advance women faculty particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, known as STEM, dates back to the early 2000s. The initiatives became known as FORWARD when they received the ADVANCE institutional transformation grant in 2008.