

Wonder Woman Acceptance Speech

Women in Cable & Telecommunications

When I got the message that WICT had named me a “wonder woman,” I thought they had called the wrong person. The real Wonder Woman had cool accessories. I, on the other hand, haven’t even had a chance to get new shoes for this event.

I’m from Minnesota, home of Garrison Keillor and the 3M Company. In a way, my Minnesota roots are at the center of everything I’ve done in my career.

From 3M, the inventor of Scotch tape, I learned – what else -- stick-to-itiveness, which comes in handy in programmer negotiations. Also a deep appreciation for Post-its – very important if you’re as disorganized as I am.

Mostly, Minnesota taught me about strength. Garrison Keillor talks about Lake Wobegon, the little town where “all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking, and all the children are above-average.” I come from a long line of strong women, and they were the greatest role models anyone could want. My mother became a housewife at 19, divorced at 40, and at 52 – 52! – she became a flight attendant. My 92-year old grandmother still heads out the door every morning at 6:30 to go swimming at the Y. She says it beats housework. My sister works her tail off raising four kids. Talk about wonder women! Their lives haven’t been simple – neither is mine, and neither is yours. But they taught me that with self-reliance and work you love, you can have great joy.

It goes without saying that I have above-average children and a good-looking husband. I’m so thankful to them, and to my colleagues at (company) for their encouragement, patience, and support. And I’m very grateful to WICT for including me in this incredible roster of talented women. Thank you for this honor.
