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NEWS RELEASE

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Annual Women of Discovery Honorees Selected

New York, NY— WINGS WorldQuest is proud to announce the 2016 Women of Discovery honorees. Among them are Juliana Machado Ferreira, a conservation geneticist using DNA analysis and forensics to end wildlife trafficking and preserve biodiversity; Beate Liepert, a climatologist who discovered the impact of air pollution on climate and solar energy; Kristen Marhaver, a marine biologist studying the reproduction of threatened coral species; Sheila Ochugboju, a genetic virologist advocating for science communication and leading the Global Women Inventors and Innovators Network initiative; and Marla Spivak, an entomologist protecting and enhancing the health and diversity of the world's declining honeybee population.

These five intrepid women will be inducted into WINGS' international community of Fellows and recognized for initiating bold scientific research and activism efforts, embarking on daring expeditions around the world, and making discoveries that catalyze solutions to global conservation issues.

"The world deserves to access 100 percent of the greatest minds in science and exploration. WINGS WorldQuest ensures that women's voices are heard, revered and funded. We are proud to showcase the accomplishments and vision of our 2016 Women of Discovery honorees whose cutting-edge research and strategies are critical to global conservation issues," said Yael Jekogian, Managing Director of WINGS WorldQuest.

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The awardees will be honored and celebrated later this year at the organization's biggest annual event: The Women of Discovery Awards Gala, which will be held on October 25, 2016 in New York City.

The WINGS WorldQuest Women of Discovery awards span seven categories: Air & Space, Courage, Earth, Conservation, Humanity, Sea, and Lifetime Achievement. The honorees are nominated and chosen by the WINGS WorldQuest Fellows network, Board of Directors, and Advisory Committee, which is composed of accomplished public and private sector experts in the sciences and exploration. To date, the organization has granted over \$500,000 to 73 Fellows from across the globe and published and showcased the findings of more than 30 women-led expeditions across all of the world's continents and oceans.

WINGS WorldQuest™ is a registered nonprofit organization founded in 2003 to recognize and support extraordinary women in science and exploration. It is the only organization of its kind, awarding unrestricted funding to women in scientific exploration. WINGS' support knows no boundaries—women of all races, nationalities, ages, and cultures who show initiative, passion, and promise toward future scientific advancement have been granted funds that are often critical to seeing their ambitious ideas through. In return, they have become part of the WINGS community, and strengthen the organization's mission to inspire the next generation of intrepid explorers and global problem-solvers through various outreach programs. For more information, visit www.wingsworldquest.org.

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