

# NEWS

May 2025: UCI Dynamic Womxn Awards recently honored one of our faculty mentors, Dr. Katherine Thompson-Peer. See our commentary below.

At UC Irvine, women are leading the way — breaking new ground, building community, and creating spaces that uplift and empower. Among them are the dedicated participants of the *Women in Research (WIR)* mentoring initiative, a growing network committed to supporting early-career women and shaping a more inclusive future in research through mentorship, collaboration, and community.

This year, WIR once again takes center stage as one of its champions is recognized for her outstanding contributions. On **May 22, 2025**, **Dr. Katherine Thompson-Peer**, Assistant Professor at UC Irvine, was honored with the **Spotlight Award** at the **Dynamic Womxn Awards** — a distinction given to individuals whose leadership and impact shine across multiple areas and whose stories speak powerfully to the spirit of the award. Dr. Thompson-Peer’s long-standing mentorship of early-career women researchers having participated in the WIR program over 2 years supporting 2 groups of women in this time embodies the mission of WIR and reflects her deep commitment to equity in academia.



Dr. Katherine Thompson-Peer at the 2025 Dynamic Womxn Award

The **Dynamic Womxn Awards**, hosted annually by UC Irvine’s **Womxn’s Center for Success**, are more than just a recognition ceremony — they’re a powerful celebration of changemakers. These awards honor individuals who have made meaningful, often unsung contributions to gender equity, community growth, and inclusive leadership. In **2023**, the **Dynamic Womxn of the Year Award** was awarded to **Dr. Alie Male**, WIR’s founder and president, whose vision helped build a mentoring culture that continues to thrive and expand across campus.



Dr. Alie Male at the 2023 Dynamic Womxn Awards



Dr. Alie Male's 2023 Dynamic Womxn Award

Both Dr. Male and Dr. Thompson-Peer reflect the best of what the Womxn’s Center for Success stands for: community-rooted leadership, transformative mentorship, and a commitment to justice that goes beyond formal roles or recognition. Their contributions remind us that real progress is fueled not just by policy but by people — people who are willing to invest time, energy, and care into helping others grow.

As we recognize these milestones, we also honor the collective effort behind WIR's success. The women who give their time — through mentoring, organizing, or supporting behind the scenes — are the heartbeat of the program. Their continued dedication keeps the initiative moving forward and ensures its impact reaches even more women entering the research world.

The story of WIR is one of shared leadership, mutual support, and lasting impact. And it's clear: the women of WIR are not just supporting the next generation of researchers — they are leading the way.

The WIR Team

April 2025: WIR was recently featured by Minority Postdoc! Check out the article here: [https://www.minoritypostdoc.org/articles/2024-15-2-adams-UCI\\_WIR](https://www.minoritypostdoc.org/articles/2024-15-2-adams-UCI_WIR)