EnCorps STEM Teachers Program is proud to join women from across the country to release Many Facets: America’s Women Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. EnCorps’ Founder and Board Chair Sherry Lansing, and Executive Director Katherine Wilcox are among the many diverse women who contributed 21st Century essays. Read Many Facets here.

WHAT IS MANY FACETS?
Many Facets is an anthology of 21st century essays from a diversity of women throughout the nation, that not only honors the hard-fought efforts of the Women’s Suffrage Movement as we celebrate and commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, but also acknowledges the exclusion of that very right for women of color until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed.

WHO CREATED MANY FACETS?
The Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation and National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) partnered with women throughout America as our nation celebrates the centennial of the enactment of 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote to develop this impactful collection of essays.
Since the beginning of time, women have defied social norms and navigated through systemic barriers intended to limit access to education and the workforce. To me, no one better literally "piloted" her way through the norms and barriers of the times than Amelia Earhart, who was a great inspiration to me. I so admired her pioneering spirit, her outspoken independence and perseverance in pursuit of her goals. As a high school student, I had the opportunity to intern with the FAA in Denver through the recommendation of my math teacher. After the experiences of being on the runway with the engineers and observing their work, solving problems, I knew that I wanted to be an engineer, as well. My high school classmates that joined me at the University of Colorado, School of Engineering did not include one other female, and I was one of five young women in total studying mechanical engineering. 2 1/2 years into my pursuits, after feeling fully marginalized, I switched my major to Economics with advanced classes in Econometrics and double-majored 1 1/2 years later.

Women's votes can change the balance of power in the United States as they should, with women representing the majority of our population. For too long, men have denied gender equality and in doing so, defeated attempts to create access to education and adequate healthcare and to enact pay equity, and deprived women of rights in our justice system.

Ultimately, the right for women to vote created the mechanism to empower women and communities to affect change in our country. In my opinion, the two most significant changes that have occurred in the last 100 years since women achieved the right to vote have been the economic progress of women as a result of allowing more women to enroll in higher education and enter professional occupations, and the promotion of reproductive rights for women with the increased availability of healthcare services and supplies.

As record numbers of women are being elected into Congress, reflecting a better representation of our country, I believe that the US will enact the Equal Rights Amendment that will ensure equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. I believe that I will see female President in my lifetime that will also work to make that happen.
Prior to joining EsCorps, Katherine’s career included more than 25 years of experience in senior management positions in national corporations and co-founding and leading a computer accessories brand. With an appreciation for education, and an understanding of the importance of high standards, hard work, diversity and challenge, she sought a “life-imagined” career as an educator by joining EsCorps as a Fellow in 2010. She became Southern California Director in 2013 and has served as EsCorps’ Executive Director since 2014.
At a very early age, my mother taught me that voting is one of the most sacred trusts we have. As an immigrant from Nazi Germany, she revered and celebrated the freedom of open elections. Therefore, I have always taken voting very seriously. I research all of the candidates’ positions; I evaluate all of the propositions; and I take great pride in casting my ballot.

I began voting when I was 21, just after graduating college. Reflecting back on that time, women’s professional options were limited; we were generally expected to be teachers or nurses. And, while those are extremely noble careers, today it is heartening to see that women have unlimited opportunities. Slowly but surely, society is becoming gender blind. Nowhere is this more evident than in the realm of politics.

I live in a state where I have been fortunate and honored to vote for three women who have become US Senators: Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, and Kamala Harris. Now, Senator Harris has been selected as Joe Biden’s running mate. She is following in notable footsteps: Geraldine Ferraro, who served as Walter Mondale’s Vice Presidential candidate in 1984; Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and Senator Margaret Chase Smith, who ran for the Democratic and Republican Presidential nominations in 1972 and 1964, respectively; and of course Hillary Clinton, who as the Democratic party’s Presidential nominee in 2016 won the majority of the popular vote. Each of these extraordinary individuals exemplifies the advances that women in the US have made since the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. I fully expect a woman to be elected President during my lifetime... and I feel a responsibility to do everything possible in my role as a citizen to help make that possible.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, let’s take a moment to remember the women who paved the way for its passage: Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, Ida Wells Barnett, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and countless others. Every woman in America, no matter her political affiliation, owes an enormous debt of gratitude to these tireless advocates for equality as we prepare to make our voices heard in the upcoming November elections.
During nearly 30 years in the motion picture business, Sherry Lansing was involved in the production, marketing, and distribution of more than 200 films, including Academy Award winners Forrest Gump (1994), Braveheart (1995), and Titanic (1997). In 1986, she became the first woman to head a major film studio when she was appointed President of 20th Century Fox. Between 1992 and 2005, she served as Chairman and CEO of Paramount Pictures. In 2005, Sherry created her nonprofit foundation dedicated to cancer research, health, public education, and career opportunities. Among the foundation's initiatives is the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program, founded by Lansing to retrain career-changers with the technical backgrounds to serve as California public school science and math teachers. In addition, Lansing is a co-founder of Stand Up To Cancer, which funds multi-institutional cancer research "Dream Teams." She also serves on the University of California Board of Regents – and on the boards of the Broad Museum, the Career Center, Encore.org, the W.M. Keck Foundation, the Lasker Foundation, the Pacific Council on International Policy, and the Scripps Research Institute.