

**PRESS RELEASE**

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JeffCo Innovators’ Workshop Presents Robbie Gries and her new book

***Anomalies: Pioneering Women in Petroleum Geology –***

***1917 – 2017***

*Event is second in series this year about women in STEM careers*

GOLDEN, CO, May 18, 2017 -- The JeffCo Innovators’ Workshop will present a unique free event celebrating the role of women in the oil and gas industry on Wednesday, June 14 at Golden’s City Hall, at 911 Tenth Street. The workshop will feature a presentation by Ms. Robbie Gries about her new hot-off-the-press book ***Anomalies: Pioneering Women in Petroleum Geology – 1917 – 2017***. The event will begin at 6:20 pm and will include an entertaining slide show by Gries, followed by Q & A, networking opportunities, refreshments, and announcements of other local activities.

While admission to the event is FREE and open to all in the greater Metro Denver and Jefferson County area, advance registration is encouraged as space is limited. Registration is available at <https://www.meetup.com/Innovators-Workshop>, or

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/anomalies-pioneering-women-in-petroleum-geology-tickets-34475074877?aff=es2>.

The event is being co-sponsored by the [Colorado Scientific Society](http://coloscisoc.org/) and the [Colorado Oil & Gas Association](http://www.coga.org/) (COGA). The City of Golden’s Economic Development Commission, and the IX Power Foundation, are the founders of the JeffCo Innovators’ Workshop which has been providing informative and entertaining talks and workshops for start-ups, established entrepreneurs, and business people of all types, since 2013. The event on June 14th is the second in a series coordinated by the JeffCo Innovators’ Workshop this year regarding women in STEM careers. The first was *JeffCo International Women’s Day* on March 8.

“People think the oil and gas industry is a man’s world,” said Deborah Deal, Chair of the JeffCo Innovators’ Workshop. “But women have played an important role in the industry, and particularly in the development of scientific advancements over the last 100 years. Ms. Gries’ book provides a fascinating look at this history that should inspire women – youngsters and adults – in their pursuit of a STEM career.” (STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)

Robbie Gries is founder and President of Priority Oil & Gas LLC, a Denver-based natural gas production, petroleum exploration and development company with producing properties in Kansas and Wyoming. Robbie has been in the petroleum industry for over 40 years, and has been an independent in this industry since 1980. She has combined the business side of oil and gas with her passion for the science of geology and published over 30 papers. She is the 2012 recipient of the AAPG Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award. She was the first woman President of AAPG and expanded the footprint of the organization by visiting over 44 countries and all the newly formed AAPG Regions. She is a Fellow and past Treasurer of the Geological Society of America. Robbie has been a Director for the Colorado Oil and Gas Association and an officer, leader and scientific contributor to the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists. She has a Master’s degree in geology from The University of Texas at Austin where she serves on the Advisory Council for the Jackson School of Geosciences Geology Foundation. Robbie is a co-founder and a Board member of GeoScience World an internet resource for the geosciences providing digital access to geological publications to over 19 countries. She is past president of the Colorado Women’s Forum and 1997 recipient of the Woman Leader of Excellence Award from the Colorado Women’s Leadership Coalition. She was a founder of People House, a Denver based center for Human Potential started in 1974.

**About the book, Anomalies:**

***Anomalies – Pioneering Women in Petroleum Geology: 1917 - 2017*** is a celebration of individual courage, tenacity, and professionalism as well as a timely reminder of our past, when male-dominated professions excluded women. The social structure outside this profession amplified the struggle for equality: the inability to vote, the dictate that women should not work outside the home when married, the pervasive practice of lower pay for equal work, the paucity of advancement opportunities, and the lack of recognition in companies and associations.

Surprisingly, it spans a stretch of time virtually equal to the time span that men were finally being valued as petroleum geologists. The timeframe began with the period prior to WWI when even a male geologist was looked upon with disdain as having no useful purpose in the search for oil. As geologists gained acceptance, war intervened, creating a vacuum into which the female geology graduate stepped up to the challenge. The women described in Anomalies took the steppingstones necessary to gain respect and become leaders in their chosen field. They are celebrated herein.

**About COGA and CSS**

Founded in 1882, the **Colorado Scientific Society** promotes knowledge, the understanding of science, and its application to human needs, focusing primarily on earth science, yet welcoming members with interests in all fields of science.  It is the oldest scientific society in the Rocky Mountain region. Its lecture series occurs on the third Thursday of each month, from September through May, and talks are open to the public. The society hosts a student night when students from regional colleges present research to compete for prizes. In addition to its monthly lecture series, the society is also active in public service. It funds student research grants, constructs and posts signs that describe local geologic features, and organizes and leads several field trips every year. The CSS provides speakers and field trip leaders for community organizations, hosts “virtual field trips” on its website ([www.coloscisoc.org](http://www.coloscisoc.org)), and provides judges and awards for science fairs.

Founded in 1984, **COGA**’s (Colorado Oil & Gas Association) purpose is to foster and promote the beneficial, efficient, responsible, and environmentally sound development, production, and use of Colorado’s oil and natural gas resources. COGA is a nationally recognized trade association that aggressively promotes the expansion of Rocky Mountain oil and natural gas markets, supply, and transportation infrastructure through its growing and diverse membership.

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