Janet L. Williams has worked at Sandia National Laboratories for 24 years. From her start in facilities planning to her current management position in the weapons program, her vision and leadership have been vital to the wise investment of Sandia’s capital funds and careful management of a wide array of projects. Her ability to communicate well results in excellent relationships with scientists and engineers at Sandia, other nuclear weapons facilities, and at government agencies, such as the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration. As manager of the Weapons Complex Integration Department, she is responsible for a group of engineers that provides expertise in methods, tools, training, and support in systems engineering and technical project management to weapon components designers.

Williams has been a member of the Society of Women Engineers since 1984, joining shortly after graduating from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She presented a paper at her first SWE national conference in 1987 in Kansas City, and she has attended all but two national conferences since. When Williams moved to New Mexico in 1985, she helped initiate the chartering process, and the Central New Mexico Section was chartered in 1988. Williams soon got the fledgling section involved in national projects, such as the Higher Education Opportunity Program, a four-year, NASA-funded program that exposed middle-school minority students to engineering at local universities.

In 1993, Williams persuaded the section to bid on hosting the SWE national conference in Albuquerque. The 1997 Albuquerque conference was a professional and financial success and enabled the section to endow a scholarship with the proceeds. While conference planning was in progress, Williams served as achievement award coordinator, had her second son, and received the Society’s Distinguished New Engineer Award.

As both a member and as chair of the SWE Magazine editorial board, Williams helped guide the transformation of a small, 40-page publication to a large, professionally written, revenue-generating publication that has won numerous awards. She has been a frequent contributor to the magazine.

Currently, Williams serves as a member of the national strategic planning committee and as chair of the environmental scan subcommittee. The SPC works on strategic planning for SWE and maintains and updates the strategic plan. The environmental scan document produced by the subcommittee describes the environment in which SWE operates and presents data that might be useful to SWE members involved in strategic planning. Her work on the environmental scan subcommittee has been critical to ensuring that SWE’s strategic plan reflects current workplace conditions and global trends.