Presented by Bank of America and
the National Center for Women & Information Technology

Technology Stars of the Future
Showcase & Awards Ceremony | March 5, 2016

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the National Center for Women & Information Technology
About NCWIT Aspirations in Computing

NCWIT Aspirations in Computing (AiC) provides a long-term community for female technologists, from K-12 through higher education and beyond, encouraging persistence in computing through continuous engagement and ongoing encouragement at each pivotal stage of their educational and professional development. AiC is supported nationally by Apple, AT&T, Bank of America, Bloomberg, Google, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Intel, Microsoft, Motorola Solutions Foundation, Northrop Grumman, Qualcomm, and the Symantec Corporation. AiC serves 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and all U.S. military bases overseas. Find out more at www.aspirations.org.

About Bank of America

Bank of America is one of the world’s leading financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small and middle-market businesses and large corporations with a full range of banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk management products and services. The company provides unmatched convenience in the United States with 4,700 retail financial centers; 16,000 ATMs; and award-winning online banking. Bank of America is a global leader in wealth management, corporate and investment banking and trading across a broad range of asset classes, serving corporations, governments, institutions and individuals around the world. Bank of America offers industry-leading support to millions of small business owners through a suite of innovative, easy-to-use online products and services. The company serves clients through operations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and more than 35 countries. Bank of America Corporation stock (NYSE: BAC) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

About NCWIT

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is a non-profit change leader network of more than 650 universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations nationwide working to increase women’s meaningful participation in computing. NCWIT equips change leaders with resources and platforms for taking action in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women from K–12 and higher education through industry and entrepreneurial careers. NCWIT receives significant financial support from Lifetime Partner Apple, Strategic Partners NSF, Microsoft, Bank of America, Google, and Intel, as well as from Investment Partners Avaya, Pfizer, Merck, AT&T, Bloomberg, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise. Find out more at www.ncwit.org.
Scholarships

The following institutions offer scholarships to recipients of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing:

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Map of Award Winners

Alpharetta, Georgia
Bellevue, Washington
Chicago, Illinois
Chicago, Illinois
Corona, New York
Crozet, Virginia
Edison, New Jersey
El Cajon, California
El Paso, Texas
Falls Church, Virginia
Fremont, California
Gahanna, Ohio
Germantown, Maryland
Golden, Colorado
Greensboro, North Carolina
Helotes, Texas
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Las Cruces, New Mexico
Longwood, Florida
Mooriestown, New Jersey
New York, New York
Newberg, Oregon
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Ontario, California
Plainsboro, New Jersey
San Jose, California
San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico
Santa Barbara, California
Seattle, Washington
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Simi Valley, California
Sugar Land, Texas
West Jordan, Utah
Wexford, Pennsylvania
DENISE MENELLY, MANAGING DIRECTOR, HEAD OF SHARED SERVICE OPERATIONS, BANK OF AMERICA

Denise Menelly is the Shared Service Operations (SSO) executive for Global Technology and Operations. She is responsible for delivering industry leading banking solutions to retail, commercial and corporate clients in the U.S. and across more than 52 countries. The SSO organization ensures the accurate, efficient flow of almost $1 trillion per day in payment transactions, high-quality processing of card and cash transactions and efficient and effective transportation and imaging services.

Denise’s experience spans over 30 years leading positive change in a variety of banking operations, technology and client service functions. Before joining Bank of America in 2010, Denise was the Chief Operating Officer for Royal Bank of Scotland’s Americas division and a Vice Chairman of RBS’s Citizens Bank. Prior to her time at RBS, Denise spent 12 years at Citigroup in a variety of senior roles in the Technology and Operations division. Earlier in her career, Denise led teams and implemented improvements at Bankers Trust Company (now part of Deutsche Bank).

As a champion for women in business, Denise has played a leadership role in designing and launching organizations and programs designed to help women succeed. Denise is a board member of the National Center for Women and Information Technology and the executive sponsor for Bank of America’s Women in Technology & Operations (WIT&O) advocacy group that strives to attract, develop and retain female talent in technology and operations. She is currently a member of the Global Ambassador Program at Bank of America, which, in partnership with the nonprofit organization Vital Voices, provides mentorship to emerging women leaders.

Denise lives in New York with her husband Rick and has two sons, Peter and Steven.
On behalf of Bank of America and our employees worldwide, I’m truly honored to welcome you to Charlotte and congratulate you on your selection as a 2016 National Award for Aspirations in Computing winner. This event is a highlight for me and our organization.

We are so pleased to partner with NCWIT to recognize such a brilliant group of young women. You’ve been selected because of your computing achievements as well as your leadership, academic history, future education plans and potential to contribute to the information technology field. You should feel very proud of this accomplishment.

With the new Computer Science for All initiative, there’s no doubt that learning computer science is a “new basic skill” required in our digital economy. At Bank of America, we see firsthand the importance of this skill and work to encourage young women to pursue careers in technology through programs like the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. It’s such an inspiration to get to know the next generation of female leaders and watch you change the face and impact of computing.

Bank of America has earned national recognition as an employer of choice for young professionals, women and people of ethnically diverse backgrounds. We strive to create an inclusive environment where people can bring their whole selves to work every day and succeed. We understand how important it is to have the diversity of our employees reflect that of our customers and we believe this gives us a competitive edge.

It’s no secret that the technology industry needs more smart, talented, educated women like you. I encourage you to continue your education in computing, pursue a career in technology and make your mark on the field!

Congratulations and best wishes,

Denise Menelly
Shared Service Operations executive, Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Global Program Sponsor for Women in Technology and Operations
About Lucy Sanders, NCWIT

LUCY SANDERS, CEO & CO-FOUNDER

Lucy Sanders is CEO and Co-founder of the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) and also serves as Executive-in-Residence for the ATLAS Institute at the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU).

Lucy has an extensive industry background, having worked in R&D and executive (VP) positions at AT&T Bell Labs, Lucent Bell Labs, and Avaya Labs for over 20 years, where she specialized in systems-level software and solutions (multi-media communication, and customer relationship management. In 1996, Lucy was awarded the Bell Labs Fellow Award, the highest technical accomplishment bestowed at the company, and she has six patents in the communications technology area.

Lucy serves on several high-tech startup and non-profit boards, including the American Center for Entrepreneurship. She also frequently advises young technology companies. Lucy has served on the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) Board of Trustees at the University of California at Berkeley, as well as on the Information Technology Research and Development Ecosystem Commission for the National Academies and the Innovation Advisory Board for the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Lucy is a recipient — along with NCWIT co-founders Robert Schnabel and Telle Whitney — of the Computing Research Association’s 2012 A. Nico Habermann Award. In 2004 she was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Engineering at CU, and in 2011 she was recognized with the university’s George Norlin Distinguished Service Award. She has been inducted into the Women in Technology International (WITI) Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the 2013 U.S. News STEM Leadership Hall of Fame Award. Lucy received her BS and MS in computer science from Louisiana State University and the University of Colorado at Boulder, respectively.
Congratulations!

On behalf of the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) community and board of directors, I want to congratulate each of you on the computing aspirations and achievements that have earned you the 2016 NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. We know that we will be proud of how you continue to utilize your technical skills to tackle societal challenges.

Your accomplishments are proof as to why educational initiatives like CS for All are so critical. Your wealth of computing skills and innovative mindset contribute to the technological foundation of our society. With the tech workforce increasingly recognizing the importance of women’s contributions, you are in a prime position to shape future innovation with your unique ideas and to take advantage of some of the most rewarding, highest-paying careers.

NCWIT is dedicated to increasing women’s meaningful participation in technology and computing from K-12 and higher education through industry and entrepreneurial careers. We want to support your plans for the future, wherever it may take you. Our network of 650+ member institutions and 6,000+ AiC Community Members are ready to provide job opportunities, technical projects, mentoring, advice, encouragement, and more.

We hope this Award will always remind you of the powerful and innovative things that you can do with technology. You are truly an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lucy Sanders, CEO & Co-founder, NCWIT
JAMIE ADLER, ASPIRATIONS IN COMPUTING PROGRAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jamie Adler has successfully combined business and technology for over 25 years as an entrepreneur, management consultant, and business executive in tech and telecom. She has founded her own venture-backed start-ups, managed new product development at Fortune 500 companies like Qwest Communications, and enabled growth at businesses in-between these two stages.

In 2015, she turned her passion for her extracurricular activities into her day job when she joined NCWIT as the Executive Director of the “Aspirations in Computing” program. Now she serves both the business community as well as girls and young women across the U.S. by building and growing programs that ignite girls’ interest in computing and developing their career interests and opportunities in order to fill the tech “talent pipeline” with females.

Jamie is also a board member of the “Coolest Women We Know” and is a frequent panelist for its Profit Matters program — encouraging, advising, and guiding female entrepreneurs to success.

Jamie received her MBA from The Anderson School at UCLA as well as a BA in Sociology from UCLA. She received her education in tech the old-fashioned way: on-the-job training, necessity-driven trial-and-error, reading books, attending User Group meetings, and asking colleagues “why?” and “how?”
RUTHE FARMER, CHIEF STRATEGY & GROWTH OFFICER

Ruthe has focused her efforts on increasing girls’ participation in technology and engineering since 2001. She leads strategy, development, and partnerships at NCWIT and directs the NCWIT K-12 Alliance. Ruthe has a history of successfully scaling up innovative STEM projects and leverages that experience for the NCWIT mission. She is the driving force behind the hugely successful Aspirations in Computing talent development initiative, designed the NCWIT AspireIT outreach program to engage 10,000 girls in computing by 2018, and launched the TECHNOLOchicas campaign and initiative in January 2015. She received the inaugural Education UK Alumni Award for Social Impact in 2015, the Anita Borg Institute Award for Social Impact in 2014, was named a Champion of Change for Technology Inclusion by the White House, and received the Ulla Popken Phenomenal Woman Award for her work to increase girls’ participation in technology and engineering in 2013. Ruthe served as the 2012 Chair of Computer Science Education Week and has been featured in Forbes, Tech Republic and is a guest contributor for the Shriver Report and TechCrunch.
Aspirations Award Leadership

**MARISSA HOFFERBER, ASPIRATIONS IN COMPUTING RECOGNITION PROGRAMS LIAISON, OPERATIONS LIAISON**

Marissa Hofferber is the Aspirations in Computing Educator Award Program Manager and National Award Program Liaison. She also serves as NCWIT’s Operations Liaison, providing administrative support for NCWIT’s non-profit and University of Colorado finances. She graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BS in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing.

**AMMI LUDWICK, ASPIRATIONS IN COMPUTING RECOGNITIONS PROGRAMS MANAGER**

Ammi Ludwick is responsible for the implementation and expansion of the recognitions program through Aspirations in Computing. She works closely with the Strategic Engagement Manager and the AspireIT K-12 Outreach Program Manager to develop ways to honor the growing Aspirations in Computing and Educator Communities.

Ammi’s background is in education, volunteer management, program development, and event planning. She received her bachelor’s degree from St. Mary’s College of California and her master’s degree from Loyola University Chicago.
MEREDITH SMILEY, VICE PRESIDENT, WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS, BANK OF AMERICA

Meredith Smiley is the global program lead for Bank of America’s Women in Technology & Operations (WIT&O) advocacy group. WIT&O is an organization comprised of 17 chapters with over 6,000 members in the United States, Europe and the Asia Pacific region. WIT&O’s mission is to attract, develop and retain female talent in technology & operations at Bank of America. With a B.A. in Communications from Appalachian State University, Meredith started her career with BCD Meetings and Events on the Bank of America account. Since formally joining Bank of America in 2008, Meredith has worked in a variety of Employee Engagement and Communications roles leading strategic initiatives geared towards making Bank of America a great place to work. Meredith lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband Jason.
AJAITA SAINI | Edison, NJ
Middlesex County Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Technologies

Ajaita is finishing her junior year in high school. A staunch feminist, Ajaita spent the past year blogging at SPARK, a movement that fights the sexualization of women in the media. She created an app with Google that maps important females in history, and was interviewed about the project by CNN and The Huffington Post. She spends her time studying for her engineering exams, inhaling novels, and painting. When she’s not freaking out about her GPA, you can find her fundraising for her UNICEF club. She’s also president of her VEX robotics team, CTO of her school’s StartUps Club, vice president of GirlUp, and participates in Math League. Ajaita is a 2015 Girls Who Code alumna, and along with 22 other amazing women, created a final project that implements the concept of the Internet of Things. She received $10,000 to develop the project, and is now the co-founder of her own startup. Ajaita hopes to increase her acuity in computer science, business, and finance through a degree in computer science engineering and an MBA.

ANGELIK LABOY | San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico
CIMATEC - Escuela Secundaria Especializada en Ciencias Matemáticas y Tecnología

Angelik is a high school junior at the Specialized School of Science, Mathematics and Technology in Caguas, Puerto Rico. She believes technology is thriving, alive, and changes the world; it sparked a passion for her as a little girl! Angelik participates in Vex Robotics as the strategist/programmer of the school team, 2252D. They won the Design and Excellence Award and traveled to the Vex Robotics World Championship. Angelik knows how to code in HTML, Python, and Java, and is learning C++ and IOS app development. She has competed in science fairs including the Google Science Fair, the Metropolitan Science Fair, where she won the Intel Excellence Computer Science Award, and Intel ISEF. Angelik won her school’s highest prize, the CIMATEC Award, and was a 2015 NCWIT Affiliate Award runner-up. She is part of the Boys and Girl Club, National Honor Society, and the American Chemistry Society (Avogadro Club). She also teaches programming to K-12 students. Angelik hopes to attend MIT and major in Software Engineering, User Experience and Design, while minoring in Film Production.
ANGER AGOTH | El Cajon, CA
Granite Hills High School

Anger is currently in her junior year. She has been part of BEWiSE (Better Education for Women in Science and Engineering) since 8th grade and was part of the ISS (International Space Station) Youth Team, whose project successfully blocked radiation using boronated hydrocarbon putty in microgravity. Anger was born in Sudan, grew up in Egypt, and moved to the United States as a refugee in 2006. She has wanted to be a computer engineer since 5th grade. Because she was born and grew up in a country with little education and access to technology, she hopes to return to Africa to teach computing. Anger is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Society of High School Scholars, is president of FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), and a leader of Christian Club. She’s also a team captain for cross country and distance track. Anger and her friends started the school’s Engineering Club. As the oldest of five and with parents that speak little English, she’s committed to excelling in school and helping with family.

ANNIE XIE | Greensboro, NC
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

Annie is a senior and is passionate about equipping younger women and disadvantaged students with technology skills. Annie has led two AspireIT camps and various technology workshops, teaching Scratch, Lego Robotics, and Microsoft Kodu. She serves on the Executive Team of ProjectCSGIRLS, encouraging girls across the nation to pursue computing careers. Annie teaches computer-building workshops at HandyCapable Network for underprivileged students who do not own computers. Annie conducts research at Duke University where she investigates various algorithms to keep human mobility data private. As a research intern for the United States Department of Defense, she explored applications of big data networks, including military defense and airplane networks. She has conducted research in statistical language models and linguistic analysis. Annie is a 2-time American Invitational Math Exam Qualifier and participates in the High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling. Annie plays on the varsity tennis team, and she enjoys hammock camping with her family, solving Rubik’s cubes, and fangirling over Pentatonix and Pitch Perfect. She plans to attend Princeton University majoring in Operations Research and Financial Engineering.
ARUSHI BANDI | Wexford, PA
Pine-Richland High School

Arushi became interested in Computer Science during a 9th grade programming class. Being the only girl in the class inspired her to create a program at her middle school to encourage girls to explore STEM. Arushi is a junior at Pine Richland High School, and a member of Girls of Steel Robotics, NHS, Programming Club, and the tennis team. Last year, she started a middle school FIRST Lego League team with seven girls and three boys. She considers this a great accomplishment because she wants to inspire girls to pursue STEM careers. Last summer, Arushi worked on a project called “Using Natural Language Processing to Improve the Prediction of Relevant Data.” In this project, she worked on an algorithm to improve relevant data in Electronic Medical Records. Last year, Arushi also submitted an Android app that teaches high school students how to manage their money to the PA Computer Fair. Some of her hobbies include tennis, digital photography (https://goo.gl/Nigkmm), and piano. Arushi graduates in 2017 and plans to major in Computer Science.

ASHWARYA SRINIVAS | Simi Valley, CA
Oak Park High School

Ashwarya’s technical interests developed from observing her parents’ IT work, and advanced upon taking her first programming class in high school. Her interest led her to become one of the youngest girls in California to achieve a Microsoft Office Master certification. She is the Head Chair of Programming in her school’s Vex robotics team, team captain of a Gold-level CyberPatriot team, and founded/leads a cybersecurity club at her school. Her most inspiring experience has been when she streamlined the database system for the children’s department in an AIDS Care Facility in India and helped develop a camp for AIDS-diagnosed children. She has also worked as an Associate Instructor/Research Assistant at a robotics, programming, and video game design institution for children, and as an Intern at Project Scientist, a STEM girls’ camp at Caltech. Ashwarya is also an Indian classical Carnatic vocalist and team captain of her school’s varsity tennis team. She would like to pursue her studies in computer science/information security, and utilize technology and engineering to further evolve fields including medicine and security.
CASSANDRA IVIE | West Jordan, UT
Copper Hills High School

Cassandra Ivie is many things: dancer, debater, innovator, sister, daughter, leader, friend, engineer, web-designer, and programmer. Cassandra grew up learning how to build, program, and debug microcontroller circuits, and has been soldering circuits since she was six years old. Cassandra is the vice president of 4-H’s Utah Northern Regional Ambassadors program. Her current programming projects include an app to improve the intake of medical information from non-native English readers and a game that teaches nutrition. Cassandra is participating in Sisters Rise Up and is entering her third year as a member of PrototypeX 3230, an FRC robotics team that won the Technology Innovation award and has competed at the World Championships. Cassandra teaches electronics and junk-drawer robotics, and has mentored programming, electronics, engineering, and citizen science camps. Cassandra has coached multiple robotics teams, and has facilitated STEM outreach activities at many events. She is currently creating a Java curriculum for Utah 4-H. She loves combining teaching and technology to help kids who might not see themselves as programmers to see the “STEM” they have inside.

CHRISTINA BEAR | Golden, CO
Colorado Academy

Christina became interested in computing/technology after her teacher encouraged her to take AP Computer Science. Christina went on to teach at 4-H and the Colorado Academy for Scratch Programming. For her Girl Scout Gold Award project Christina taught a group of fourteen minority children at Horizons Colorado introduction to Scratch programming and robotics. She works with Denver Public Schools teaching students to code. Her curriculum is being shared with Horizons National to promote STEM literacy. Christina is formalizing a manual on STEM Mentoring for Minority Students. As a result of her experience, Christina named her work Project STEM Student Mentors. Christina initiated the Radon Awareness Program to educate Colorado on the harmfulness of radon, discussing youth activism at the White House Summit on Environmental Education in 2012. She is Co-chair of the Colorado Academy Youth Philanthropy Board, a member of the Girl Scouts of Colorado Membership Committee Board, and a student ambassador on the Board of Seeds of South Sudan. She ran varsity cross country and will study bioinformatics, environmental studies, and public policy in college.
Devangi began her engineering journey in 9th grade, and has since explored architectural, design, agricultural, software, and computer engineering. Devangi’s biggest influences have been her dad, her 9th grade engineering teacher, and her current math teacher. They encouraged her to explore the world of engineering and to follow her dreams, and introduced her to the field of data science. Devangi started her own women in engineering awareness club and hosts engineering nights to encourage students to explore STEM. Devangi is in many STEM and engineering clubs, service clubs, honor societies, and is a national qualifier in oratorical oration. She is a part of Microsoft’s DigiGirlz and has earned multiple awards in engineering/science competitions. Currently, she is taking machine learning and inferential statistics classes and is learning to code R through Microsoft. At the end of the year, Devangi will be one of the first from her school to receive a medal in computer science and IT. Devangi hopes to major in statistics and computer science, and to pursue an MBA.

Eileen’s first taste of the maker movement happened when she volunteered at the Harold Washington Library Maker Lab, teaching library patrons how to use 3D printers and laser cutters so they could create physical manifestations of their digital creations. In her sophomore year, she took a digital fabrication course that went to the Fabrication Lab at the Museum of Science and Industry, where they learned how to use a CNC router and a Kinect to scan objects in 3D. She is president of her school’s technology club, Tech Squared, where she sets up coding and technology lessons or projects. Additionally, she is the webmaster of the student council and the Student Leader of Tech Crew, a student organization dedicated to repairing technology around the school. Eileen was only the second girl to ever join, but after her leadership, the gender ratio is now around 60% females to 40% males. Eileen will major in computer science, but hasn’t yet decided where she will go to college. She hopes to continue spreading technological literacy in whatever she does.
ELISABETH PARTIN | Las Cruces, NM
Centennial High School

Elisabeth is extremely active in her school and community. She has served in many leadership positions, including as student leader in her Taekwondo classes (in which she has a black belt), vice president of the Science Olympiad program, and president of the youth group at her church. During the summers, Elisabeth travels on mission trips to Arizona to help underprivileged families do major house renovations. Additionally, Elisabeth is heavily involved in the school band, where she plays bass clarinet and participates in color-guard. She spends her afternoons and free time practicing dance and handbells. Elisabeth is also a member of Amnesty, Peace Jam, and volunteers throughout her church and community. She wants to go to a school with a strong creative computing program, so she can focus on website design or program design for local organizations to help make them more efficient. She has a strong desire to serve her community through the creation of helpful technology as well as teach younger students how to program.

GEMMA BUSONI | Ontario, CA
USC Hybrid High School

Gemma fell in love with tech two years ago at a CoderDojo LA workshop, and has since attended over 50 hackathons. Gemma manages development operations at Discovr Learning, a virtual reality company focusing on immersive educational experiences, and serves on the Mayor’s Youth Council. She recently worked with Hack Club, a non-profit that helps high school students to start independently led coding clubs. She’s organized two CodeDay Los Angeles events and three TEDxYouth conferences. Gemma has done research through USC, the Natural History Museum, and Caltech, allowing her to present her team research at an NSF Meeting and publish her research paper (http://goo.gl/Bw8ExB). Gemma has seen friends and peers struggle to grasp basic scientific and technical concepts, inspiring her to start “Downtown Hackers” — an organization that partners with mentors to help students understand code and other STEM concepts. She recently gave a talk at TEDxOrangeCoast on the program. Gemma is passionate about revolutionizing education through virtual reality, catching the attention of NBC’s Today Show Tech Savvy Teens segment (http://goo.gl/Lnle2).
2016 Winners

JAIĐEN FALLO | Chicago, IL
Walter Payton College Preparatory High School

When Jaiden signed up for a summer coding camp, she was frustrated by the 40:1 ratio of boys to girls in computer science, so she started a Girls Who Code program and researched the causes for the lack of girls in computer science. Her research on the impact of the media stereotyping of females in computer science has gotten national recognition, taking 2nd place in the MIT Inspire Research Competition. Jaiden is a Global Ambassador for Berlin-based Greenlight for Girls. Jaiden received a grant as an ANNpower 2015 fellow to start FEMcoders, a financial empowerment mission for coders that helps unemployed and underemployed women. The program helps women find free and low-cost ways to learn coding and to build a portfolio and earn an income while gaining experience through freelancing. In the Fall, Jaiden will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in a dual degree Computer Engineering and Economics program at the Wharton School of Business. Her goal is to show young girls they cannot only work for a tech company, they can run one.

JAMIE GRAHAM | Newberg, OR
McMinnville High School Engineering & Aerospace Sciences Academy

Jamie’s interest in computing/technology began when she taught herself to program her own computer games in middle school. She then got accepted into the Engineering & Aerospace Sciences Academy and is currently lead programmer of her FIRST Robotics Challenge. Jamie designed and programmed two Nanolab experiments that were tested on the International Space Station. Currently she leads her school’s Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam to design a better shelter for refugees in Third World Countries. She is working on a machine simulator to change the way engineers view the design process as a whole, but her greatest technical achievement is leading a team of Autodesk software engineers to develop an open-source FIRST Robotics Challenge Simulator that maps code to robot designs. She is a National Honor Society member, has a 4.0 un-weighted GPA and is projected to be valedictorian of her school. In addition, she is President of EASA as well as a peer tutor for younger engineers. Jamie plans to study computer science at Oregon State University and start her own software development company.
KARINA SHAH | New York, NY
The Dalton School

Drawn to the challenging Euler math problems in middle school, Karina taught herself to code to solve them. She participated on her school robotics team for three years, won 1st place overall in the state competition for two consecutive years, and advanced to the world championships in 2011. She filed a patent on behalf of her team for a robotic arm for stent placement for cardiovascular disease. Karina worked at NASA, where she researched the most efficient method of image retrieval and compression. Her team’s findings were published in the International Journal of Data Envelopment Analysis and Operations Research. This past summer, she programmed algorithms to validate NASA’s Earth surface temperature data. Karina developed “Club in the Box” which introduces students from underfunded schools to computer science through an offline curriculum, all from a box! She implemented it at schools in Washington, D.C., reaching nearly 170 elementary students. Karina aspires to be tomorrow’s creator of technologies that will transform society, making the world a better place.

KATHRYN TSAI | Moorestown, NJ
Moorestown High School

Learning through technology has always fascinated Kathryn. After taking advanced math and programming classes, Kathryn participated in a summer program with Biogen and wrote a Mathematica program that modeled economic externalities. Last summer, she attended a seven-week CS course hosted by Akamai Technologies. Using a Raspberry Pi computer and an Arduino microcontroller, her team transformed an ordinary mirror into a creative digital interface. She is the president of the Programming and Math Clubs and is a member of her high school’s robotics team. She helps manage projects and works on the robot’s locomotion and vision subsystems. Kathryn co-chairs the annual Soup for the Soul event, which raises money to alleviate hunger in the Delaware Valley. She coordinates the efforts of volunteers who serve food and provide entertainment to over 300 people. In college, Kathryn hopes to pursue an interdisciplinary program in computer engineering and neuroscience. She would like to conduct research in bioinformatics and genomics on neurodegenerative diseases. She hopes to be part of the team that finds a cure for diseases, such as Alzheimer’s.
2016 Winners

KRITHIKA YETCHINA | San Jose, CA
Lynbrook High School

Krithika is currently a junior attending Lynbrook High School in San Jose, California. She initially got into computing when she attended her first hackathon. She developed an application that allowed employees to order food from their corporate cafe on their phone, rather than in person. Ever since, she was hooked and continued attending more and more events. Eventually, she got to organize the first high school hackathon, and even got to judge an event. She had the opportunity to attend TedxRedmond in Seattle to speak about hackathons and her journey into technology. Krithika is also a two-time speaker on the IEEE-WIE panel, and spoke about how she wants to motivate and empower future generations. Krithika hopes to either attend a university to further expand her knowledge in computer science, or join a start-up where she can work on a product that is being held in the hands of people all over the world.

LEXI ROBERTS | Kalamazoo, MI
Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center

Alexis is a diligent student who loves computers and technology. Throughout her life, Lexi has been intrigued by computer-related topics and enjoys solving vigorous problems and programming challenges using computers. Lexi has learned to code in C++ and Java and is currently learning Python and MATLAB. Additionally, Lexi has been a winner of Part 1 of the IBM Master the Mainframe contest for three consecutive years. Lexi has also been active in the USA Computing Olympiad and has competed in the American Computer Science League. Lexi is a competitive dancer and is also involved in a Computer Science Team, a Research Team, her high school’s Student Council, and the National Honor Society. Lexi is also proud to be a “big sister” for Big Brothers Big Sisters for the past two years and is an active tutor and volunteer. After high school, Lexi plans to major and eventually get a master’s degree in computer engineering. Lexi wants to continue to learn about computers and stay up-to-date with the world of technology as it evolves around her.
LILLIAN XU | Crozet, VA
Western Albemarle High School

As a freshman, Lillian used programmed lasers to dissect heart and skin cells from a disorderly population of stem cells. For this research, she won the Virginia BioGENEius Challenge and was a finalist in the U.S. National BioGENEius Challenge, the nation’s premier biotechnology competition. She also won a place in the Top 30 of the Discovery Science Center Inventor & Innovator Fair. More recently, Lillian has been named a 2016 Semifinalist of the Intel Science Talent Search, the nation’s most prestigious science research competition. For six years, she has been a research intern at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and is currently researching the revolutionary CRISPR-Cas9 gene technology and its applications in regenerative medicine. Lillian is a leader in the Outreach Team for ProjectCSGIRLS where she works to close the tech gender gap and encourages middle school girls to realize their potentials as future leaders in computer science. In the future, Lillian hopes to work in a career at the nexus of computer science and medicine.

LOK MAN LAM | Bellevue, WA
Newport High School

Lok Man Laurissa is a high school senior in Washington and a ‘Running Start’ student at Bellevue College. She became passionate about computer science her freshman year of high school after taking her first computing classes. She joined Newport Computer Club, where she is now president, and is an alumna of Girls Who Code. She and her team created a mobile application called GreenGeek to raise awareness for the environment. Lok Man Laurissa later became the treasurer of the computer club at her school and earned the Cisco Certified Network Associate certification. She’s taken AP Computer Science and Cisco Certified Network Professional classes, and is planning to take the certification exam for Cisco Certified Network Professional soon. She is currently in the Advanced Cisco Security and mobile application development class at her school and is a member of Math Club, a programmer of FIRST Robotics, and a member of the National Honor Society. She has participated in the Google Code-In, PSCSTA programming, and Hunt the Wumpus competitions. She plans to major in computer science in college.
2016 Winners

MACKENZIE JORGENSEN | Seattle, WA
Holy Names Academy

Mackenzie’s academic introduction to computer science was in her sophomore year Advanced Placement class — an experience that revealed just how much she loved technology. She continued her pursuits by working as a counselor at University of Washington’s Computer Science DawgBytes Summer Camps, where she helped teach languages such as Processing, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. She took Projects in Computer Science, an advanced computer science elective at Holy Names Academy. Her greatest accomplishment in technology is founding a non-profit called WATT (Women Advancing Tomorrow’s Technologists). Through WATT, Mackenzie offers after-school computer science programs for fourth and fifth grade girls at several local schools. As Mackenzie contemplates college, she plans on majoring in computer science and neuroscience, so that she can work alongside leading researchers in both fields to create better brain imaging software or a better platform to map the brain. During her college career, she would like to make a service trip to Africa to teach girls how to code. Mackenzie is also an Open Champion Irish Dancer, competing in the U.S., Canada, and Ireland.

MEGAN ELWOOD | Longwood, FL
Lake Brantley High School

Megan is a senior at Lake Brantley High School and is the President/Founder of her school’s Programming Club. After taking AP Computer Science her freshman year, she has continued to take as many computer science courses as possible. She also competed in the IBM Master the Mainframe contest for four consecutive years, each year completing parts 1 and 2. Her sophomore year, she worked with two other girls on iPad Minis, programming projects for pre-school students at their school. That year, she won the NCWIT North Central Florida Affiliate Award, was runner-up for the National Award, and was also interviewed about the IBM Master the Mainframe competition. Her junior year, she led a small team of students to help teach Autism Spectrum students how to code. Later in the year, she earned an internship at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Megan strives to do her best, and she will continue to do so as she starts college in the fall, with plans to double major in computer science and psychology with a double minor in Spanish and mathematics.
MEGAN HANDLEY | Santa Barbara, CA
Dos Pueblos High School

Megan’s experience as president and founder of her school’s Women in Technology Club as well as her experience as a Girl Scout of 12 years have helped her inspire girls to enter STEM fields. Her club has received accolades at eight hackathons. She is involved in the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy, where she serves as an academic mentor and a participant in the leadership group. She is on the Academy’s Programming Team, working to create a user interface for their capstone project, “The Physics Arcade.” Megan had a research internship at UCSB, where her work received a gold medal at the Santa Barbara County Science Fair. Megan also participated in a Robotics internship at UCSB, and recently she created a Girls Who Code club in Santa Barbara, where she teaches middle school girls programming skills weekly. When she graduates from high school, she will also hold an AA degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Math & Science from SBCC. In the future, Megan plans to pursue a career in biomedical engineering.

MELISSA YUAN | Oak Ridge, TN
Oak Ridge High School

Melissa is a senior at Oak Ridge High School who is passionate about research and helping others. She is Vice President of Student Council and volunteers at the Children’s Museum and Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge. Her engineering experiences include Electrical Engineering at the NSF-funded Young Scholars Program, Physics at Tennessee Governor’s School for Science, and Computer Science at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She started learning C++ and HTML in 7th grade and is currently working on a data visualization project at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Inspired by her grandfather’s eight years of Alzheimer’s disease, she is especially drawn to the medical field. She would like to study chemical and biological engineering and has been accepted to Princeton University. She plans to study the genetic, biochemical, and molecular facets of neurodegenerative diseases. She aspires to develop medication that effectively targets and prevents further degradation of the nervous system. Using a multidisciplinary understanding of computer science, she aspires to target, fix, and sustain the inner workings of the human body so people can live unhindered.
2016 Winners

NATASHA GOENAWAN | Kalamazoo, MI
Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center

In middle school, Natasha attended the Academically Talented Youth Program at Western Michigan University where she became interested in Math and English. Natasha attends the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center where she has taken four years of computer science classes and has dual enrolled at Western Michigan. She has participated and placed in many coding contests and she especially enjoys coding Minecraft plugins in Java. Recently, Natasha organized an Hour of Code event for 6th graders and is planning another event. One of the most exciting things she has done is traveling along the coast of Michigan and Japan to collect water samples in a high school science foreign exchange program. Natasha also conducted research at Western Michigan University’s nanotechnology lab on the early diagnosis of ALS. Her research team won first place at the Southwest Michigan Science and Engineering Fair and moved on to the 2015 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair where they won two awards. Natasha also enjoys competing in math competitions and has been an avid pianist for 11 years.

RISHITHA THAMBIREDDY | Plainsboro, NJ
West Windsor - Plainsboro High School North

Rishitha has a penchant for all aspects of computer science and engineering, including robotics and programming. Rishitha’s interest in technology extends to many aspects of her life as she holds a leadership position on her school’s FIRST robotics team and works as a junior robotics instructor at summer camps and after school classes. Rishitha’s proudest accomplishment regarding the technology fields is the creation of her organization, FutureSTEMGirls. Through individualized tutorials and creative, out-of-the-box thinking, her aim is to encourage girls to join computer science fields and bridge the gender gap in technology. Rishitha is currently interested in the applications of computer science in other fields such as medicine and engineering. In today’s era of technology, she wants to explore how computers can help others around the world simplify tasks or implement new solutions to unsolved problems. In Rishitha’s opinion, the power of technology is limitless, and being a part of the process of bettering the world is what motivates her to pursue a career in computer science in the future.
ROSA GONZALEZ | El Paso, TX
Chapin High School

Rosa is currently enrolled in Chapin High School’s Pre-Engineering Magnet Program and holds a Magnet Ambassador position. She participates in math club, High-Q and is a Mu Alpha Theta. She is vice president for the FIRST robotics team and is the Yearbook Editor. She is also an Orchestra Member and volunteers for her school’s blood drive. Rosa has won an NCWIT Affiliate Award her sophomore, junior, and senior years. Through networking at one of the NCWIT Affiliate Award ceremonies, she obtained an internship where she got to explore Scratch and Terminal. Through an animation course Rosa learned to use freehand, Adobe and 3ds Max. She later obtained an internship called WWASP where she worked with a partner to create a research project. After WWASP, she participated in GEMS where she learned about optics, cyber security, radios, satellites, and anechoic chambers. Now, Rosa is building her own permaculture garden design to lower food waste. Rosa plans to attend the University of Texas at El Paso and eventually join the Peace Corps.

SAVANNAH COFER | Gahanna, OH
Columbus Academy

Savannah has a passion for designing and programming unique robots, using computing technology to solve real-world problems, and teaching young students about engineering. She is a National Merit Finalist and AP Scholar with Distinction. Savannah participated in FIRST robotics for the past nine years, competing in international competitions throughout the United States, Germany, and Spain. Savannah won numerous national STEM competitions including the Google Lunar X PRIZE MoonBots Challenge, the Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge, and the Christopher Columbus Award. She was also a national finalist for Intel ISEF, eCYBERMISSION, and the Bluetooth Breakthrough Awards, as well as a regional finalist for the Siemens Competition, and has presented at the White House Science Fair, where she met the President of the United States. Savannah led the development of a patent pending, non-invasive device to reduce the effects of essential tremors. Her innovation was featured on Mashable’s “9 Incredible Science Projects by Brilliant Kids.” Savannah plans to pursue degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science this fall.
2016 Winners

SHARON LIN | Corona, NY
Stuyvesant High School

At a young age, Sharon began learning C and writing her first programs in Vim. She is now the founder of StuyHacks and BitxBit Camp, a computer science education non-profit she founded. She is a national officer for eSTEAMed Students, ProjectCSGIRLS, and the National Teen Council. She is Founder/President of the Stuyvesant Technology Student Association and the New York State TSA President. Sharon has volunteered through numerous organizations, earning her a National Liberty Museum and TD Young Heroes Award, Prudential Spirit of Community Distinguished Finalist Distinction, the Distinguished Key Clubber Award, and the International Key Club Distinguished District Editor Award. Her academic honors include being an MIT THINK Scholar, Google Science Fair Regional Finalist, Grace Hopper Celebration Google Scholar, two-time USAAAO National Finalist, two-time She++ #include Fellow, AP Scholar with Distinction, and a NextGenVest 18 Under 18 winner. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Science Olympiad team and mentors aspiring programmers through LearnITGirl and the Unicorn Foundry. Sharon enjoys blogging, playing piano, composing songs, taking photographs, and voicing characters.

SRUTIKA RUHELA | Shrewsbury, MA
Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School

Shrutika is a senior at the Advanced Math and Science Academy. She competed in the Technovation Challenge for two years (9th and 10th grade), and she went to nationals one year, as one of the Top 10 teams in the world. Shruti is currently co-president of a group called MassCAN CS Sparks, a group of high school students who partnered with the startup MassCAN to run outreach programs around the state for encouraging other students to become involved in computer science. In addition to CS, Shruti enjoys playing sports. She plays for her school’s varsity volleyball and softball teams, and was two-year captain for both teams. She also instructs skiing, helps the community fundraising for the World Food Programme, and volunteers through her school’s chapter of the National Honors Society. Shruti plans to pursue computer science in college next year.
SONIA SACHAR | Fremont, CA  
Irvington High School

Sonia’s background in computer science helps her take a unique machine learning approach to building computational models to optimize the prediction of drug efficacy for cancer therapies at Stanford’s Canary Center. She created an effective artificial neural network computational model inspired by how biological neural networks, such as the human brain, process information to train a computer system to predict the efficacy of drugs and lead to advancements in precision medicine. Sonia won numerous accolades for her work — the Intel Science Award in Computer Science, Lawrence Hall of Science Award of Innovation, John Hopkins University Cogito Research Grant, Young Minds Evergreen Award, and the White House Congressional App Challenge Award. She serves as the co-chair of the City of Fremont Youth Council where she represents 15,000 local youth and brings their issues to government officials. For her outstanding community efforts, she was recognized by California senators and assembly members. Sonia will pursue her education at Brown University in the fall of 2016.

SUNCERIE DAYE | Helotes, TX  
Texas Military Academy

Suncerie began her journey in the 5th grade, learning python and the command line. Through middle and high school, she learned Java, C#, C++, HTML and CSS, and PHP. She has attended many hackathons, winning awards at three of them. She dabbles in computer vision for her FRC robotics team. She created a dead reckoning algorithm, taking the data from the camera feed and calculating things, such as the ball shooter angle and velocity. She is currently teaching athletes at her school to build and design their own smart watch fitness apps and is also teaching children in foster homes how to code. Along with computer science, she enjoys solving difficult math problems. She has recently participated in the AMC math contest; her goal is to reach the highest level of the contest: the Math Olympiad. Suncerie plans to attend Carnegie Mellon to study computer science. She wants to begin her research in finding new and improved technologies.
SURIYA KANDASWAMY | Germantown, MD
Poolesville High School

Suriya has been programming since the 2nd grade, and she is the captain of her school’s math team, computer team, and FIRST Robotics team, as well as the founder of a club to get more girls interested in computers — Girls Can Code, Too! She created a class at her local library called Girls Just Want to Compute for girls in her community to learn how to program in Python. Suriya has participated in several programming competitions, including the American Computer Science League All-Star competition, where her team placed 1st nationally and 2nd internationally! In addition to programming competitions, she also takes part in cybersecurity competitions such as picoCTF, CSAW, and MDC3, and has participated in PennApps XII. Suriya created an iOS app called Plan It Out!, which was released in the app store in early 2014. She plans on attending college to double major in either computer science or engineering and business. She is particularly interested in applied computer science and engineering — using computer science and engineering to help make advances in other fields.

TEMITOPE OYEWUWO | Sugar Land, TX
Elkins High School

Temi has been interested in science, technology, and space since elementary school. She started looking further into her interest in computer science in 6th grade when she started learning HTML. Then, she went beyond Computer Science into animation and attended a summer camp at MIT, which taught her about the 3D Animation software, Autodesk Maya. In high school she enrolled in the AP computer science class in which she is learning Java. In the beginning of her junior year, she joined the computer science team which competes with other schools in FBISD. She got accepted into the NASA Aerospace Scholar program and is currently a member of the Texas High School Aerospace Scholars. This summer, she teamed up with AspireIT and University of Houston to start a summer program to teach middle school girls how to build. Later, she joined 19 others at a seven-week Girls Who Code summer immersion program at Google, where she learned six new programming languages.
In the summer of 2015, Vanessa attended a Girls Who Code program, where she learned how to code in JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Scratch, and Python. At the summer program, Vanessa and a friend designed and implemented an app that would help girls and women get involved with technology, find nearby mentors, and spread awareness of upcoming tech events nearby. Vanessa is currently working towards a Computer Systems A+ certification at her high school. She is also interested in cyber security, which led her to become involved with the Cyber Patriot team at school. Vanessa hopes to attend a four-year college and earn a degree in computer software/hardware engineering or earn a degree in cyber security. She is very passionate about technology and wants to engage others with technology. Vanessa hopes that in the future she can work with technology, software and/or hardware, to build something that makes a difference in the world, while inspiring other girls to pursue tech careers.