AspireIT 2.0: Impact Award Application Guide

As a reminder, prior to completing this application, you first must log your event, learning experience, computing group, non-profit work, etc. using the Activity Tracker.

Selection Criteria:

Award decisions will be based on an individual's contribution to work that:

- connects communities of technical women of all ages
- creates opportunities to participate in computing for marginalized populations including girls, non-binary, or students of BIPOC heritage
- exhibits strong near-peer mentorship or peer-led leadership models
- promotes and expands computing career pathways and opportunities in the local community

The Impact Award application consists of a brief essay question and short video responses which will give you the opportunity to speak about various components surrounding the work and outreach you have accomplished in your community. Below is a breakdown of the application questions that will be asked.

Basic Information

This section of the application asks you to provide us with your mailing address, pronouns, recent headshot, and any social media handles (optional). If selected, we will use this mailing address to send the award check and certificate. We may potentially include your social media handles in our publications and your recent headshot and pronouns may be used to highlight your work on aspirations.org.

Brief Summary (*350 Word Limit*)

In this section of the application, you will provide a brief summary of the work you've been accomplishing in your community to increase the meaningful participation of girls and women in computing. Use this as an opportunity to share your experience of expanding opportunities in computing and why it is important for you to build community. *Be sure to address the four selection criteria (above) in your response.*

Video Responses

The remaining questions are all video submissions which will give you the opportunity to speak about various components surrounding the work and outreach you have accomplished in your community.

- **Four of the responses are *required***; you will then need to **select *one additional* question** to respond to that best represents your specific experiences.
- Record the video responses as if you are in a one-on-one Zoom style interview, responding to each question individually. **Please do not create a presentation, provide voice-over to pre-recorded video clips or other supplemental materials, add any effects, etc.** so that we can judge all participants fairly.
- **Each video response should be no longer than 2 minutes per prompt**, so we recommend outlining your talking points beforehand.
- **If you are selected to receive an award, these video responses may be used to highlight your work on our website and social media channels**. Please keep this in mind when preparing your responses.
- *If video submissions are a barrier for you, please reach out to us at AspireIT@ncwit.org and we can assist you with this aspect of the application process.*

Here are some additional tips for recording your video responses:

- Put your phone on silent.
- Position the camera at eye level. Place your laptop or other recording device on books or a box to get it to the proper height Tipping the camera up or down at an extreme angle does not solve this; you need to raise or lower the camera, or yourself, to achieve this.
- Clean the camera lens with a soft cloth or tissue.
- Center yourself left-right, and position yourself so your head is close to the top of the frame.
- Position your phone horizontally (hamburger style) so that it is filming in a landscape format.
- Do not point your camera toward an exterior window or any bright light source. You need to be the brightest object in the image.
- Nice, soft, warm light is the best. Use a fill light in front of you if possible. Avoid lighting that is directly overhead and strong lighting behind you. Try to avoid creating hard shadows. Soft lighting in the background is good.
- Check your background; make sure there's nothing visible that you wouldn't want on screen.
- Avoid bright white clothing or fine lines or patterns. No stripes!
- Sit or stand a comfortable distance from the camera. Look straight at the camera when you present - this is your audience and eye contact is important.
- Relax, speak slowly and naturally. Project just like you would in a room of people.
- Re-watch the video you have made and don't be afraid to re-record!

Video Prompts:

Below are the prompts of the video questions to help you prepare for your responses. *As a reminder, you will respond to the **four required** prompts as well as **one additional prompt** of your choosing.*

Respond to *ALL* of these Required Prompts:

Connecting Communities of Technical Women of All Ages
> NCWIT is looking to honor Aspirations in Computing (AiC) Community Members who recognize the value in connecting communities of technical women of all ages.

Please explain how you have used computer science to bring various communities together.
- Have you provided information to younger audiences on computer science through an after school program?
- Have you united women and male allies through conferences or hackathons?
- Have you assisted in training individuals making a technology-related career change?
- Have you worked with or established a nonprofit with similar goals in mind?

Computing Opportunities for Marginalized Populations

NCWIT is looking to honor AiC Community Members who are actively creating opportunities to participate in computing for marginalized populations including but not limited to girls, non-binary, or students of BIPOC populations.

Please describe your efforts to connect to *any* or all of these populations through the work you've accomplished in your community.
- Be sure to also mention *how* you have addressed these communities and fostered an inclusive environment.
- What specific steps were needed to address any challenges in reaching these communities?
- Please feel free to address your work with any other marginalized populations.

Peer & Near-Peer Mentorship

NCWIT is looking to honor AiC Community Members who have exhibited strong peer and near-peer mentorship specifically related to computing and have served as a role model.

Please explain tactics you have used to mentor others (youth, campus peers, etc.) in your community.
- Examples include creating a computing group, running a near-peer program, sharing lessons learned at a conference, etc.

Computing Career Pathways

NCWIT is looking to honor AiC Community Members who have promoted computer science careers and other opportunities in the field, making real world connections to their local community.

Please outline any ways you have highlighted opportunities in the field of computer science to those you have mentored, and how you have demonstrated the ways in which technology can be used to solve real world problems.

Respond to *ONE* of the Following Additional Prompts:

Growth & Sustainability

NCWIT is looking to honor AiC Community Members who have heightened local interest in computing and created sustainable models of continued success. Please outline how you have **grown interest in your local community through technology and how you plan to sustain these efforts** to broaden the participation of women in computing.
- How do you plan to grow the interest of technology and computing in your community?

- How have you already increased this interest in comparison to previous months/years?
- What have you done to make this a sustainable model moving forward?

Challenges & Moments of Adversity

NCWIT recognizes that challenges can arise with this type of work. **Please identify any obstacles you have encountered** within your community and **how you have overcome those to accomplish your goals**.

- Is there a specific incident you found discouraging?
- Is this work as a whole more challenging than you expected?
- What have you learned from these challenges?
- How has this shaped your thinking surrounding potential obstacles you may face in the future?

Inspiration

Please describe what **inspires** you to do this type of work and broaden the participation of girls and women in computing.

- Why are you passionate about the work you do?
- Are there any specific experiences that have inspired you over the years?
- Is there a particular story where you knew you were making a difference?
- Is there a comment from a student or parent that sticks out? A desired outcome?

Application Affirmation

In this section of the application, you will be asked to review and agree to the following statements and if you are under 18, your parent/guardian will need to affirm to these terms on your behalf:

I do hereby affirm under penalty of complete forfeiture of any and all winnings the following:

1. I am a member of the Aspirations in Computing Community
2. I certify that I have reviewed the video recording guidelines understand that my responses may be shared on NCWIT websites and social media platforms.
3. I have read, understand and agree to the rules for participation as set forth at this page: https://www.aspirations.org/ncwit-aspireit-impact-award
4. I have read and agree to NCWIT's Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.
5. I have read and agree to the Consent and Release Form for Applicants.
6. All of the facts stated by me herein are true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and understanding. Should I become aware of any change to or inaccuracy in any of the information I provided, without delay, I will inform the program administrator via email at aspireit@ncwit.org.
7. I meet all of the criteria and eligibility as specified at this page: https://www.aspirations.org/ncwit-aspireit-impact-award.
8. This agreement is effective as of the date of submission.