

The logo is a dark circular emblem. Inside the circle, there is a stylized sunburst or fan-like graphic with several white and grey lines radiating from the top. Below this graphic, the text "NCWIT" is written in a small, yellow, sans-serif font. Underneath "NCWIT", the words "Award for Aspirations in Computing" are written in a larger, white, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines.

NCWIT
Award for
Aspirations in
Computing

Michigan Affiliate Award Celebration

Saturday, March 5th, 2016
East Lansing, MI

ncwit.org

NATIONAL CENTER FOR WOMEN & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (NCWIT)
www.ncwit.org/award | aspirations@ncwit.org | 303.735.6671

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Additional Support: Defrag, Qualcomm, and Motorola Mobility Foundation*



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MICHIGAN AFFILIATE EVENT AGENDA Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center Michigan State University East Lansing, MI

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:30 AM	Registration	Big Ten BC Lobby
9:00 AM	Breakfast	Big Ten BC
9:15 AM	Introductions and Welcome Linda Ott Leo Kempel, Dean of Engineering, Michigan State University	
9:30 AM	Keynote: Sue Buck Vice President Product Development, Vertafore Introduction: Teresa Isela VanderSloot	
10:00 AM	NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Program Yolanda Charles, Regional Affiliate Manager, NCWIT	
10:05 AM	Aspirations Awards Introductions: Laura Dinsmoor, Michelle Jennings, Aubrey Baker	
	Educator Award: Tasha Candela, Lake Shore High School Introduction: Laura Dillon	
	Acknowledgments and Closing Linda Ott	
11:00 AM	Photo	Big Ten Lobby

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Sue Buck, VP Product Development, Vertafore

Susan is a senior global technology leader with over 30 years of commercial software development experience from small startups through large global enterprises. She has two great passions in life: creating software products and building high performing technology organizations. Making a difference in the lives of customers, the teams that build and support the products, and growth of the business is what drives her.

Over the years, she has held many positions from an entry level software developer, principal in her own company, through Chief Technology Officer and Chief Information Officer. In her current position as VP Product Development at Vertafore, Susan is responsible for the technical vision and all aspects of product development including architecture, software engineering, quality assurance, and operations.

Susan has a Bachelor of Science with majors in Computer Science, Mathematics and Psychology and a Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University. She enjoys volunteering in the Michigan startup community and is involved in encouraging young students in the area to pursue their interests in computer science related fields. In her free time, she loves to travel, indulge in her passion for the fine arts, and occasionally spend a night binge watching on Netflix.



Michigan Affiliate Award Celebration

2016 EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT



Tasha Candela

Lake Shore High School
St. Clair Shores, MI

Since sixth grade, when dialup Internet became a novelty, I simultaneously became a computer geek. Countless hours have been spent using search engines to locate information, communicating on Internet Relay Chat, and navigating rivers and fighting off thieves on the Oregon Trail. Fast-forward to today where I am reading hundreds of online articles per week, networking with people across the globe on Twitter and Facebook, and using a slingshot to fling animals into various structures in Angry Birds. The types of activities that have preoccupied me have adjusted little. The real change has been the access time. Thank God for high-speed Internet. After taking several computer classes in high school, I decided that a career as a business teacher would be the perfect fit. For me, the clicks of fingers pressing the letters on a keyboard are as soothing as a robin's song. My home [row] would not just be a location on that keyboard; It would be my destiny to serve in a tech-filled classroom.

As an alumnus of Central Michigan University, I have many reasons to be proud of my education. In December 2005 I graduated cum laude with a major in Business Teacher Education, minor in English, and vocational certification in business services. I have always enjoyed school. Graduating college in three and a half years made for some crazy schedules. Now that I am a National Board Certified business teacher at Lake Shore High School with master's degree in Educational Technology, I have a newfound understanding of the word exhausted. Nevertheless, I love what I do. I have been named the state of Michigan's Technology Teacher of the Year, Lake Shore's Teacher of the Year, and a self-titled nerdette. Currently, I teach web design and field experience courses and I am responsible for helping teachers integrate technology at the secondary level.

I am a lifelong learner. I recognize the advantages of attendance at conferences and use that knowledge to enhance the classroom. Because of my thorough knowledge of the business and technology fields, I also presented at the Technology Student Showcase, Oakland University's Summer Summits, Michigan Digital Learning Conference, Mathematics, Science, and Technology Symposium, MACUL, MBEA, MCWT, Microsoft's Innovative Education Forum, and Edcamp Detroit conferences. These experiences have enabled me to network with other educators, increase my confidence and communication skills, and build on my own lessons. My goal in this ever-important profession is to push my students beyond their academic and social limits and prepare them for a life full of opportunity. Undoubtedly, I am in my dream profession and every decision that I have made has been with my students' best interests in mind. I love technology, teaching, and touching lives. It is not enough to write that I love my career. Teaching is such a noble profession and I cherish every minute of it. To learn more, visit <http://tashacandela.weebly.com/> or <http://bethetigger.edublogs.org/>.

2016 MICHIGAN REGIONAL ASPIRATIONS AWARD COMMITTEE

Aubrey Baker, CQL

Laura Dillon, Michigan State University

Laura Dinsmoor, Oakland University

Linda Ott, Michigan Technological University

Michelle Jennings, Michigan Virtual University

Teresa Isela VanderSloot, Michigan State University



Michigan Affiliate Award Celebration

2016 MICHIGAN AFFILIATE AWARD WINNERS



Caitlin Beirne | St. Clair Shores, MI
Senior, Lake Shore High School

Caitlin competed in the MCWIT's annual web design contest in the advanced division in 2014 and 2015. Her website won second place in 2014 and honorable mention in 2015, based on her presentation and overall website. She is planning to attend Indiana Tech. Her dream is to become a web designer. Her greatest technical accomplishment to date would be the website she created for a class last year. The website was themed around repurposing. Caitlin's website was 6 pages long. Caitlin is retaking advanced web design her senior year so she can continue to learn different techniques and gain a better understanding of technology.



Caitlyn Myers | Hope, MI
Senior, H. H. Dow High School

Caitlyn has been involved with FIRST Robotics for three years, and Business Professionals of America for two years. Caitlyn has competed at Business Professionals of America Regional and State competitions placing in the top ten at the 2015 Michigan State Conference. After high school she hopes to pursue a computer science major in college.



Celia Chagnovich | Ann Arbor, MI
Senior, Pioneer High School

Celia's main technical accomplishment occurred when she was participating on her school's FRC robotics team: PiHi Samurai (team 1076). Last year, Celia was on the electrical engineering subteam, and wired a large portion of both the prototype and competition robot. This year, Celia was chosen as the student leader of the electrical engineering team. In addition, Celia received the Women in Engineering (WIE) Scholarship from Michigan Tech to attend their WIE Summer Youth Program. Celia plans to major in either environmental or biomedical engineering. She is interested in these majors because they are directly applicable to the issues that concern her.



Chelsie Eiden | Kalamazoo, MI
Senior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Portage Northern High School

Chelsie has been interested in technology and computers for her whole life. She has taken Information Technology, Intro to CS, AP CS, Discrete Math and Advanced CS. Chelsie is on her school's programming team and has enjoyed attending competitions around the Midwest and the international ACSL All-Star competition in Orlando, FL. Chelsie and a partner are conducting research dealing with the Kinetic Traveling Salesman Problem at Western Michigan University. Chelsie plays softball, is in the band, and is an active member in the National Honors Society. Chelsie plans to attend college and study either computer or mechanical engineering.



Christina Anderson | Norway, MI
Senior, Norway High School

Christina has a 4.0 GPA in high school and is the #1 senior scholar in her class, a recognition based on GPA and ACTs. She is taking Programming and Technical Integrations learning Scratch and Visual Basic. Her school activities include band, Quiz Bowl, drama club, Key Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the yearbook. Volunteer activities include community theatre, animal shelter, Norway City Band, church activities and a project digitally recording personal histories of the WWII era. Christina participated in Women in CS, the Engineering Scholars Program and the Women's Leadership Institute at Michigan Tech. She plans to major in computer science.



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2016 MICHIGAN AFFILIATE AWARD WINNERS



Madison Werthmann | St. Clair Shores, MI

Senior, Lake Shore High School/Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center

Madison Werthmann has enjoyed coding for a large portion of her life, ever since learning basic code on a forum when she was 13. She is dual-enrolled in an advanced math, science, and technology school and has learned programming for basic input/output algorithms through this school. She has also learned HTML in her beginner's web design class. Both of these classes helped her to realize her passion for coding. She now intends to attend a university to earn a B.S.E. in Computer Science. She has been accepted to University of Michigan College of Engineering and Princeton University.



Miriam Eikenberry-Ureel | Houghton, MI

Sophomore, Houghton High School

Miriam lives in the snowy Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Before high school, she won a first place and a runner-up award at the Western Upper Peninsula Science Fair. She was in Lego League for three years. She is now in her high school choir and has been programming with Copper Country Programmers for four years. She is an AspireIT Award winner and has presented Code Ninja Workshops to teach middle school girls how to program. She enjoys participating in programming competitions. After high school, Miriam plans to be in a choir and she will go to college to study art, computers, and robotics.



Natalie Simmons | Petoskey, MI

Sophomore, Cranbrook Kingwood Upper School

Natalie became interested in computers at a very young age. At first sight, she fell in love with robotics. Prior to eighth grade, Natalie moved to Petoskey and discovered that the middle school had a FIRST Tech Challenge team. She immediately joined and began programming learning to code in labVIEW and how to use CAD. At Cranbrook, Natalie is a member of their FTC robotics team, Model United Nations club, Gold Key club, Quiz Bowl club, UNICEF club, and the Future Doctors of America club. In her free time, she plays soccer, sails, swims, runs, reads, golfs, and plays clarinet. Natalie hopes to go to the University of Oxford to study medicine and become a neurosurgeon.



Nikita Bhatia | Kalamazoo, MI

Senior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Portage Central High School

Taking computer studies and AP Computer Science in high school, Nikita fell in love with computers through the beginning programming software Scratch, and later went on to code in C++ and Java. Her experiences in solving Chapter One of the USA Computing Olympiad problems, participating in programming competitions, and competing in the IBM Master of the Mainframe Contests have only fueled her passion for this field. In her spare time, Nikita likes to sing, play her guitar, code, and perform community service. She plans to major in biophysics and minor in computer science in college.



Paige O'Connor | Kalamazoo, MI

Senior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Gull Lake High School

Paige has participated in computer competitions across Michigan with her school team. She received the Medallion Award for academic excellence, integrity, and enthusiasm for learning. She has taken courses in C++, Java, HTML/CSS, and discrete math and has worked with SQL, mainframes, and circuit designing software. She went to the Women in Computer Science Camp at Michigan Tech. Paige loves to run and her cross country team is her second family. She is participating in research at Western Michigan University particle accelerator lab and is building a remote to control the voltage for the switching magnet for the accelerator beam. She plans to study Computer Science and English.



NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

This certificate is hereby awarded to

2016 Michigan Affiliate Award Runner-Up

Olivianne James

Lake Shore High School

in recognition of excellent aptitude and interest in computing; solid leadership ability;
good academic history; and future plans in the field of computer science.



Lucinda M. Sanders
Lucy Sanders,
NCWIT CEO and Co-Founder