



MCWT HAPPENINGS

April 2016

INSPIRING AND GROWING WOMEN IN IT

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MCWT Volunteer News: 60% of Leadership Roles Filled

The overwhelming response to the volunteer opportunities created by the new organization structure confirmed, once again, that MCWT has the **BEST** volunteers on the planet.

Twenty-seven members have stepped up to take on these exciting new roles. These members will lead the way in supporting our mission to get middle-school and high school-aged girls engaged with IT learning, support them when they decide to pursue computer science as their major in college, and surround them with professional development opportunities throughout their careers.

Are you a subject matter expert?

There are still opportunities available for both leaders and volunteers who want to pitch in whenever help is needed, or who have a special skill set to offer. Members who are "subject matter experts" are a rich resource for the organization. Our Salesforce CRM database will be launched soon. When it is, please include your expertise and skills and how you want to contribute them to our events and programs.

Hear about the new org structure

Learn about our New Organizational Structure: Recently our executive director, Rosemary Bayer, detailed the various volunteering opportunities available at MCWT during our ConnectNet Lunch & Learn session. [Download her presentation](#) for the details.

This month's special request:

We're looking for some avid social media gurus to help us connect with members and the community. Send a note to volunteers@mcwt.org if you are interested in being on the team!

[Please contact us](#) if you're interested in learning more about what volunteer opportunities are available.



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Record Number of Young Women Compete in 10th Annual Web Design Contest

Our 10th annual girls' high school student website design competition attracted a record number of competitors this year — 161 teams comprised of 198 young women from 30 Michigan high schools.







Many of these contestants attended MCWT's Training Day at Davenport University where they picked up some tips and learned about various resources that would help them throughout the two-month competition. A dozen advanced division finalists presented their sites to a panel of IT executives on Dec. 5 at Blue Care Network in Southfield.

Students designed their websites with this year's theme, "Food, Glorious Food," competing for the top award. Here are the winners and honorable mentions in both the advanced and beginners categories.







We extend our gracious thanks to the following IT executives who judged our finalists on communication, clarity, functionality, graphic appeal, user-friendly navigation and innovation:

- **Michelle Billingsley**, vice president and CIO of Blue Care Network
- **Mark Colley**, vice president, software architect lead, Comerica
- **Wanda Brown**, Step IT Up America Delivery Manager – Detroit
- **Kristina Kolbas**, vice president of client platforms, Quicken Loans
- **Charlotte Decker**, CIO/CTO, UAW Benefits Trust
- **James Schmidt**, vice president, COO ANX
- **Linda Mitchell**, global automotive sales executive, Microsoft
- **Mark Parker**, owner, DigiStudioz
- **Tamara Faber-Doty**, executive director, IT, Consumers Energy
- **Gloria Schneider**, director, program delivery, Blue Care Network

Advanced Category Winners

					
Site 247	Site 255	Site 264	Site 236	Site 260	Site 267
1st Place	2nd Place	3rd place	Honorable Mention	Honorable Mention	Honorable Mention
Jillian Ritchey	Sadia Jiban & Maliha Latif	Sontia Stewart	Caitlin Beirne & Olivianne James	Shreya Mullapudi	Varmitha Hullathay
Clarkson High School	Fitzgerald High School	Fitzgerald High School	Lake Shore High School	Farmington High School	International Academy East

Beginner Category Winners

					
Site 136	Site 165	Site 117	Site 155	Site 149	Site 211
1st Place	2nd Place	3rd place	Honorable Mention	Honorable Mention	Honorable Mention
Hannah Watkins	Madison Werthmann	Caroline Scheuing	Kate Bartley	Joselyn Schlosser	Summer Nguyen
Lake Shore High School	Lake Shore High School	Canton High School	Harland High School	Canton High School	International Academy - East

SINCE 2006, THE COMPETITION HAS DRAWN 665 PARTICIPANTS AND AWARDED NEARLY \$22,000 IN CASH PRIZES. CHECK OUT THE [COMPETITION WEBSITE](#) FOR MORE DETAILS.



The Internet

The cost of transmitting information has fallen dramatically. A trillion bits of information from Boston to Los Angeles from \$150,000 in 1970 to less than 12 cents today. eMailing a 40-page document from Chile to Kenya costs less than 10 cents, faxing it about \$10, sending it by courier \$50.

Source: [Women's Learning Partnership](#)

FAST FACTS

1 out of 8

About 1 out of 8 couples met their spouse on the Internet within the past few years. There are more people meeting their significant others online each year

Source: www.geekofreak.com

1/5

Number of Americans who report going online 'almost constantly.' Overall, 73% of Americans go online on a daily basis. Along with the 21% who go online almost constantly, 42% go online several times a day and 10% go online about once a day. Some 13% go online several times a week or less often. And in this survey, 13% of adults say they do not use the internet at all.

Source: www.pewresearch.org



A red panda is an animal native to the Himalayas and southwestern China. The English word for red panda is 'Firefox' which is where the browser gets its name from – so the Firefox logo is actually a red panda, not a fox!

Source: www.thefactsite.com

Mentees and Mentors Gather at Ignite! Networking Event

On Nov. 12, Ignite! mentors and mentees gathered for an evening of informal networking, learning and fun at Altair Engineering in Troy. The event marked the midpoint of the Ignite! Mentoring program. Following the September launch, 22 mentees and their mentors have been meeting in person or by phone, talking through mentees' questions, progress meeting goals and putting mentors' advice to work.

A highlight of the event was a talk by **Sarah McNally**, president of TransForm Corporation, and TransForm creative engineer, **Pam Rusten**, on personal branding. Sarah made the case that the same qualities of a strong corporate brand—distinctiveness, relevance and consistency—also apply to personal branding. Understanding this is critical to achieving professional and personal success. Mentors and mentees received a copy of the book *Be Your OWN Brand* by **David McNally**, founder and CEO of TransForm.

Deb Swink, long time program leader and past Mentoring Committee Chair and **Pam Hansen**, current Chair, announced their departure from the committee, handing over leadership to **Heather Michalak** and **Amy Luke**, current Mentoring Committee members. Both Pam and Deb commented that it has been a pleasure to work on building the MCWT mentoring programs with the support of the amazing Mentoring Committee.



What is Ignite?

Aligned with our mission to inspire and grow women in IT, MCWT offers members a free mentoring program.

MCWT Ignite Mentoring is for members who want to make the investment in their development, but often need to do it in conjunction with school, work, family and other commitments. The program is flexible and designed for early career and mid-career technology professionals.

Mentees have the option to focus on a specific development goal, such as increasing their networking skills or leadership development, during the six-month program. Each mentee will be matched with a mentor based on several factors including geography, goals, areas of mutual interest and expertise. Mentees will also participate in three social networking events as part of the program.

For more information, please contact our mentoring committee chair at mentor@mcwt.org.



Eight MCWT Members Receive Sponsorships for Executive Mentoring

MCWT has granted scholarships for eight of our members to participate in this year's We Build Character mentoring program. The following women were selected to take part in this powerful 10-month initiative free of charge:

- **Valerie Gill**, Ford Motor Co.
- **Laura Hunter**
- **Michelle Langston**, General Motors
- **Rajani Sinha**, FCA
- **Sandra Wolf**, General Motors
- **Maureen Beirne**, General Motors
- **Rita Barrios**, University of Detroit Mercy
- **Sudha Potukutchi**, Syntel

We extend a special thank you to the committee of MCWT members who made this effort possible, including **Deb Swink, Jay Roberts, Grace Hansen** and **Jim Schmidt**.

All other MCWT members had the opportunity to receive a \$250 discount off the \$1,000 rate for the We Build Character program. This nonprofit organization's mission is to provide structured, community-based leadership mentor programs to high-potential professionals in an effort to develop and retain Michigan talent and prepare the next generation of leaders.

Remember: this isn't your only chance to kick-start your career in 2016—we also offer the Ignite! Mentoring Program, MCWT's flexible program designed for early career and mid-career technology professionals. More information to come.

MCWT Teams with Girl Scouts on Girls Rock IT

Girls Rock IT is a popular new event partnership with the Girl Scouts of SE Michigan. Brownies, juniors and cadettes complete hands-on computer and other activities to earn technology badges and patches. MCWT provides volunteers to lead the activities, speakers for the parents' program, material and lunch for the girls. This program ran twice in 2015 (spring and fall) and impacted 130 girl scouts. We look forward to expanding this program in 2016 to more locations, thanks to a strong volunteer team led by **May Russell**.



Scholarship Winner Profile

Catching Up with MCWT Scholarship Winner Chloe Jennings

"Looking back on my freshman year of college, I am blown away by how far I've come in narrowing down what I want to do with my life."

Chloe Jennings, a 2013 MCWT scholarship winner and now junior at Michigan State University, recently talked to MCWT about the exciting opportunities she's had while exploring technology. In particular, it's web design that continues to draw her into the IT field.

Chloe keeps busy at school and is even applying her web design prowess beyond the classroom.

"I currently have two jobs," she said. "My first job is being the graphics/web designer for the College of Engineering. I create posters and signage for major events held by The Center, which is the career center for engineering students. I also have the task of redesigning The Center's website. My second job is with The State News, where I design websites for third parties through The State News web company, SN Works."

Chloe also helped plan MSU College of Engineering's new "Detroit Semester" last summer by managing social media, designing signage and creating an informational map.

"I really enjoyed the Detroit semester. My hometown is about 30 min from Detroit, but I never really went there or got to experience Detroit, so helping plan The Detroit Semester was eye-opening. The goal was to socialize the MSU engineering students interning in the area, and to show them that Detroit is a wonderful place to work and live."

Chloe offered advice for the next generation of students seeking to find their niche.

"It's okay to have a very broad interest," she said. "As you get older you are going to be invited to so many opportunities that are going to shape you into what you want to become; you just have to put yourself out there."

In high school, Chloe's favorite class was art; that is, until she took a web design class that taught her how to make art for the computer. From there she entered MCWT's web design competition, learning new skills and earning 2nd place.

She then went to Michigan State University where she took more web design and graphics courses.

"Nothing seemed to be meshing together yet until my junior year when I designed my first interactive web page using Adobe Edge Animate," she said. "I then got a job at The State News designing the layouts and mock-ups. My favorite thing about designing a website is finding the best way to have the user interact with the web page."

Chloe has completed a paid summer internship every summer since high school, first working at Blue Cross Blue Shield, then at Lochbridge.

In another year, you'll likely find Chloe with a degree from MSU, working for a graphic design/web design company in the Lansing area. We're proud of what she's accomplished and look forward to following her journey.





Area Companies Help Fuel our Mission

Every business in Michigan has a stake in building a thriving, diverse IT talent pool. Here are the companies that are helping us build that community by partnering with MCWT and gaining access to tomorrow's IT leaders. Their contributions strengthen our programs and enable us to create greater impact throughout the state.



MCWT Vice President Presents at SIM Meeting

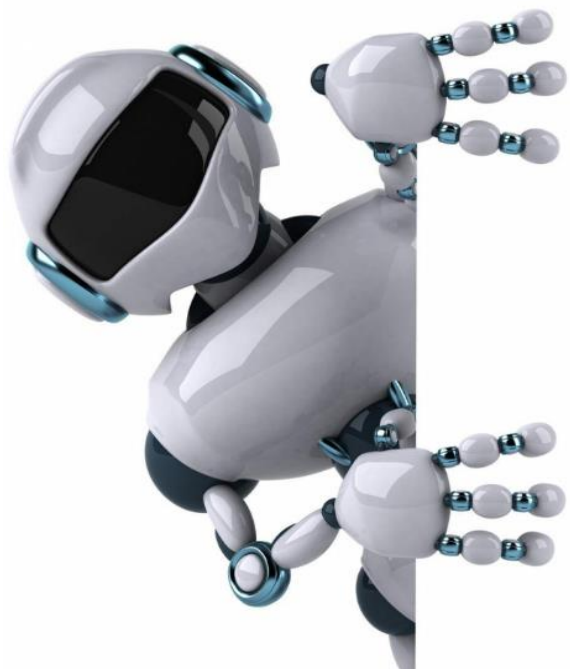
Carey Pachla, MCWT vice president and Fast Switch president, spoke at a Society for Information Management breakfast on February 16 in Southfield. She discussed developing the future IT workforce, hiring and retention trends, and how MCWT is inspiring and growing women in technology.



MCWT Awards Six Middle School Robotics Teams with Grants

Six all-girls robotics teams will each receive \$500 thanks to MCWT grants funded by our partners. The teams will use the money for supplies, robot sensors, competition entrance fees, a laptop, or other expenses. Robofest district competitions begin in March at Lawrence Tech University; we look forward to following our grant winners as they show off their creations and vie for trophies:

- 4 Twirps from GEE White Academy in Detroit
- AOW Robogirls from Academy of Warren in Warren
- Cyborg Waffles from Bethany Christian School in Troy
- Dynamic Robo Pandas from Lincoln King Academy in Detroit
- Lego Girls from Novi Meadow Woods in Novi
- Robotech Girls from Emerson Elementary in Detroit



7 Ways to Make your MCWT Membership Work for You

Let MCWT help you reach your professional goals in 2016. Here's how:

1. Attend free monthly [ConnectNet Forums](#) dedicated to networking and personal and professional development
2. Participate in free [ConnectNet Lunch and Learn](#) webinars on various hot topics in IT
3. Check out our [job postings](#) database
4. Sign up to be a mentee in one of our [mentoring programs](#)
5. Connect with other members through our MCWT [LinkedIn](#) group
6. [Volunteer and gain visibility and leadership experience](#)
7. Take a free video-based technical course via [Lynda.com](#)



MCWT Volunteer Recognition Event a Success

On January 14, a group of MCWT volunteers gathered at Local Kitchen and Bar in fabulous Ferndale to reflect upon their volunteer efforts during the past year and enjoy one another's company. The event included great conversation, amazing appetizers and drinks, music and dancing. The fun-filled evening also featured a slideshow of many 2015 MCWT events. The only thing missing — per the instructions of **Deb Kuptz** and **Rosemary Bayer**, MCWT's fearless leaders—were lengthy speeches! The primary focus of this casual event was to acknowledge the many giving members of MCWT who in some way, large or small, donate their valuable time and talent to our organization. Deb and Rosemary made it clear that MCWT would not be where it is today if not for the generous efforts of its many members, and volunteers were encouraged to keep the energetic momentum going into 2016 and beyond.

MCWT Web Design Competition Winner from 2013 Honored at White House



Way to go, **Christina Li**! MCWT congratulates this 17-year old senior from Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights for being honored by the White House as a "Champion of Change for Computer Science Education."

Christina had the brilliant idea to create Hello World, a weeklong computer science camp for middle school girls. She was inspired when she realized she was the only female programmer on her robotics team. She wanted to be part of the change to help encourage young girls to venture into this rewarding field. During Hello World camp, she teaches girls the basics of website development, robotics and game design.

In 2014, Christina won first place in our annual web design competition. Her robotics team, The ThunderChickens, was one of the first teams to receive one of our robotics grants. We even hired her and her team to serve as camp counselors at MCWT's Camp Infinity program, where they enjoyed helping young girls explore computers and robotics. This led to the creation of a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping pique girls' interest in these technology subjects.

"This is a tremendous success story for MCWT," said MCWT Executive Director **Rosemary Bayer**. "We help girls early, they keep pursuing technology, and they learn the value of community service and helping other girls."

Christina is a role model, and we couldn't be prouder of her accomplishments.

Upcoming Member Events

Tuesday, April 12th: Building Your Personal Brand

Join TEKsystems account managers **Rania Darwish** and **Nadia Wojdyla** as they discuss a proven strategy to build your personal brand. Learn how social media, mentors and even your job can help you create an action plan. If you're interested in career advancement, getting back into the workforce, changing jobs or you simply want to grow your influence, this event will benefit you.

Time: 6-8 p.m.; registration at 5:30

Location: TEKsystems

26100 Northwestern Highway, 1st floor conference center, Southfield, MI 48076

Cost: Members and students: FREE; Non-members: \$10

[Click here to Register](#)

Monday, April 18th: MCWT's New Member Welcome *Sponsored by E7 Solutions*

Are you new to MCWT? Join us for a welcome event at the MCWT offices in Dearborn. We'll provide an overview of the organization, discuss how to get the most out of your membership, and announce various volunteering opportunities available. During this meeting, we'll also connect you with another MCWT member who can share their thoughts on the various events and activities MCWT offers throughout the year.

[Register here](#) by April 11.

Time: 5:30-7 p.m.

Place: MCWT headquarters, 6 Parkland Blvd, Suite 615, Dearborn MI 48126

Cost: Free

Thursday, May 12th: MCWT Executive Connection Summit 2016

Save the date for MCWT's Executive Connection Summit. Speakers will include General Motors Chairman and CEO **Mary Barra**; **Carey Lohrenz**, the first female U.S Navy fighter pilot; and other dynamic business leaders. Attendees will explore disruptive technologies and how to stay ahead of them, learn about trends transforming workplaces, and hear how prominent technology leaders are stimulating inventive thinking and cultivating fresh perspectives in their organizations. Registration details coming soon.

Time: 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Place: Cobo Center in Detroit

Call for Volunteers!

MCWT is seeking 10 volunteers to support a daylong conference at Eastern Michigan University that connects 550 high school girls to STEM topics through conversations, workshops and exhibits. Here are the volunteer roles available:

- Registration and set up
- Assist presenters
- Distribute giveaways and collect surveys
- Chaperone participants to room and buildings

Volunteers will be asked to walk groups of girls to sessions, help with hands on activities, sell t-shirts, distribute and collect surveys, and hand out programs. ITC Holdings, DTE Energy and Consumers Energy are sponsoring the event. U.S. Rep. **Debbie Dingle** will provide the keynote address.

Time: April 22 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Place: Eastern Michigan University Student Center, 900 Oakwood St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Parking validated.

Dress: Casual; jeans and sneakers are suggested. Volunteers will be provided an optional Digital Divas t-shirt to wear.

Contact: **Bia Hamed**, program manager

313-485-7445 or bia.hamed@emich.edu

Please copy volunteer@mcwt.org if you sign up to participate.

If your organization would like to host a breakout session, contact Hamed for further information.

Save the Date!

Here's the MCWT 2016 Event Calendar

APRIL

- April 12 ConnectNet Forum
- April 18 New Member Welcome

MAY

- May 10 ConnectNet Virtual
- May 12 Executive Connection Summit at Cobo Hall in Detroit
- May 25 Scholarship Awards & Partner Recognition at Birmingham Country Club in Birmingham

JUNE

- June 14 ConnectNet Social

JULY

- July 12 ConnectNet Forum
- July 25 Golf Classic at Indianwood Country Club in Lake Orion

AUGUST

- August 9 ConnectNet Virtual

SEPTEMBER

- September 13 ConnectNet Social

OCTOBER

- October 11 ConnectNet Forum

NOVEMBER

- TBD Signature Gala

DECEMBER

- December 13 ConnectNet Social

Thank you for reading our November MCWT Newsletter!

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

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