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MCWT DRIVES INTEREST IN TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AT SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER
\$211,000 Raised Will Support Technology Programs for Girls and Women

DETROIT, Nov. 12 2009 – The Michigan Council of Women in Technology drew close to 500 IT and prominent business leaders to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn on November 7 for the organization’s annual Signature Event. The fundraiser brought in more than \$211,000 in gross revenues for scholarships, research grants, technology camps and robotics programs for girls and women in Michigan.

Co-hosted by Ford Motor Company, the event struck a chord with leadership of large and small regional companies as they came out in full force to support increasing the number of women in technology. This year’s event boasted three Diamond sponsors: Accenture, CSC and Fujitsu — a first in the history of the annual fundraiser.

“We are thrilled that so many leaders and their teams believe in supporting women and girls in technology in Michigan,” said Marcy Klevorn, president of the MCWT Foundation and Director of Global Information Technology Operations for Ford Motor Company. “Reports are saying that math and computer science jobs are expected to grow. For us, that is an opportunity to influence change. But if we’re going to influence change, we need to start early. Events like this are vital to funding and enabling the MCWT Foundation’s mission to inspire and encourage girls and women to pursue and stay in careers in the IT field.”

Not only were high-profile CIOs and executives in attendance, but a number agreed to put themselves up for auction. Individuals bid on an opportunity to have lunch with Janet MacQueen from Blue Care Network; Joe Hohner from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan; Lynne Ellyn from DTE Energy; Marcy Klevorn, Nick Smither, Tom Tremonti and Vijay Sankaran from Ford Motor Company; Paul Nussbaum from Ford Credit; Adriana Karaboutis, Kirk Gutmann, Nick Bell and Terry Kline from General Motors; Craig Flower from Hewlett Packard; Cliff Skelton and Tyler Best from GMAC Financial Services; Joe Drouin from Kelly Services; Ken Theis from the State of Michigan; and Jan Bertsch from Chrysler.

Due to the efforts of MCWT’s nearly 100-percent volunteer staff and support from corporate sponsors and community partners, MCWT and its Foundation have impacted hundreds of girls and women. With diverse programs including girls’ summer technology camps and robotics competitions, patent design programs and web development contests, the MCWT Foundation exposes the challenges and rewards an IT career can bring. Last year, \$72,000 in college and post-university scholarships and laptops were awarded, and the organization renewed previous scholarship winners’ awards for an additional \$25,000. To date, 100 percent of MCWT’s multi-year scholarship winners have renewed their scholarship or have graduated. This means that every woman who received an MCWT scholarship pursued, for its full duration, her technical degree program. This is significantly above the nationwide norm.

Other premium sponsors of the event included HP, Compuware/Covisint, AT&T, Tech Team Global and Siemens. In addition to these supporters, 24 technology-related companies, banks, healthcare companies and consulting firms bought tables and sent staff to bid at the event’s silent auction. Table sponsors included Blue Care Network, BMC, Booz & Company, CA, CDW, Cisco, Comerica, Dassault Systemes, Dell, Deloitte, Fast Switch, Ltd, i2 Technologies, Information Builders, IBM, Microsoft, Satyam, Siemens, Sun Microsystems, Symantec, STG, Tata Consultancy Services, TEKsystems, Verizon Wireless and Vision IT.

About The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to correcting the dramatically growing trend of gender disparity in the information technology field. The Foundation accomplishes this by attacking the problem at several of its roots--the education and orientation of young women throughout school, and the fostering of women in various stages of their professional lives--with a variety of educational and inspirational programs and support. For more information about the foundation, please visit www.mcwtf.org.

About The Michigan Council of Women in Technology

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology provides leadership, mentoring, community outreach, professional development and networking to professional women within the Michigan technology community. The organization’s vision is to serve as the premier association for professional women within Michigan’s technology community. For more information about MCWT, please visit www.mcwt.org.