



Contact: Kathleen Norton-Schock
MCWT communications
Knorton-schock@outlook.com
248- 891-7477

FOR RELEASE

MCWT Names U of M's Nancy Benovich Gilby 'Woman of the Year in Technology'

DETROIT, Nov. 7, 2016 – The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation named Nancy Benovich Gilby its “Woman of the Year in Technology.” Benovich Gilby is the Ehrenberg director of entrepreneurship and clinical associate professor at the University of Michigan’s School of Information.

MCWT launched the award this year to recognize women in Michigan leading or driving change for other women in information technology careers or fields of study. MCWT Foundation President Cindy Warner presented Benovich Gilby with the honor at the nonprofit’s annual Orange Carpet Gala on Nov. 5 in Detroit. Hosted by FCA US LLC, the event raised an estimated \$350,000 in gross revenue for programs that help inspire and grow women in technology.

Benovich Gilby, a Michigan alumna and entrepreneur with 10 successful high-tech startups to her credit, was nominated by students and local entrepreneurs.

“We believe positive role models are instrumental in attracting women to technology fields,” said MCWT President Cindy Warner. “Not only has Nancy proven time and again to excel as an IT entrepreneur, she has dedicated herself to influencing future tech talent, tirelessly serving as a coach, mentor and teacher.”

Benovich Gilby developed the University of Michigan’s entrepreneurial curriculum for its Bachelor of Science in Information program. She has expanded the school’s participation in national competitions, startup treks and networking opportunities. Benovich Gilby serves on the advisory board for the Computer Science and Engineering Division at the College of Engineering and mentors a FIRST Robotics team. She helps numerous female students position themselves for career advancement in STEM fields.

“My focus is to give back by providing support, encouragement, and that push so that more women and entrepreneurs can achieve their dreams,” says Benovich Gilby.

MCWT reviewed the award nominations to identify the woman who best personified its mission of inspiring and growing women in IT. The nonprofit works to broadly reach young girls to get them to consider technology and deeply connects with women who choose the IT path—with the continued support of its 87 partners and 750 members.

In 2016 alone, 27 new MCWT partners joined the cause. More than 45 companies were present at the Gala, including visionary-level sponsors Cisco and Fujitsu. About 550 IT professionals from southeast Michigan’s technology sector and beyond attended.

“Together – business leaders, parents, teachers and students – we can make Michigan the No. 1 state for women in technology,” said Warner.

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation’s vision is to make Michigan the No. 1 state for women in technology. The organization supports Michigan’s female IT workforce, students, corporate partners, schools and the overall community with programming, scholarships, networking, learning, mentoring, and technology experiences. Find more information at www.mcwt.org and connect via [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).