



Contact: Becky Price
Becky.price@mslgroup.com
(313) 410-5970

FOR RELEASE

Seven Women Receive MCWT Foundation Scholarships to Pursue Technology Path

Program has benefited 124 students during last 11 years

DETROIT, June 3, 2016 — Seven technology-oriented women received scholarships at the Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation' Scholarship Recognition event on May 25 in Birmingham. The evening was made possible by a strong network of partner companies who support a diverse IT industry in Michigan.

MCWT Foundation has awarded over \$928,000 to further the educational pursuits of 124 students throughout the past 11 years.

"Retention of women in tech majors in college is below 10 percent; among MCWT scholarship winners, that rate is over 90 percent," said Cindy Warner, MCWT president. "We are working to find this promising talent so they can continue their education and ultimately help Michigan become the No. 1 state for women in technology."

MCWT undergraduate scholarship winner Kathleen D'Souza addressed the attendees and reflected on MCWT and its commitment to giving back.

"I believe that growth is attained not solely by academic success, but also through the richness of service to others," said D'Souza. "My volunteering experience allows me to immerse myself into the world around me and broaden my perspective. It is not about individual success, but the vision of building a great future generation and a vibrant community."

2016 recipients include:

- Friends of MCWT Foundation High School Senior \$20,000 Scholarship: Rhea Singh
- MCWT GET-IT \$20,000 Scholarship: Samantha Alkatib
- MCWT \$15,000 Undergraduate Scholarship: Kathleen D'Souza and Ariel Magyar

"Right now I work two jobs," said Singh, a Northville High School graduate who plans to major in computer science and ultimately pursue a career in energy solutions. "This scholarship will allow me to go to the University of Michigan and have time to explore everything that's available there and take full advantage of all the incredible opportunities."

The following women received laptops from sponsors Dell, Code42 and Microsoft:

- Keyaria Walker
- Calleen Jones
- Lina Jebara

"The experience I gained from participating in MCWT's web design competition led me to getting a job at Grand Valley State University in web development," said Magyar, senior at Grand Valley State University. "Technology can be a creative field; it can combine art with a lot of different things."

Additionally, past scholarship winners attended the ceremony. Emily Morningstar and Chloe Jennings continue to receive their MCWT GET-IT scholarship and MCWT Presidents' Undergraduate Scholarship, respectively, sponsored by Consumers Energy. Andrea Salamay and Zilphia Martin are receiving the MCWT Undergraduate Scholarship sponsored by the FCA Foundation.

MCWT's efforts to inspire and grow women in technology in Michigan are fueled in part by 78 sponsors who provide scholarships, event support and Foundation programming throughout the year. Diamond, emerald, platinum, gold and bronze partners include: AT&T, Cisco, Epitec, Inc., FCA U.S. LLC, Ford Motor Co., General Motors, IBM, Accenture, Ally, ANXeBusiness, Consumers Energy, Covisint, Fast Switch Ltd., Plantronics, STG, TD Ameritrade, VMWare, Acro Services, APPDynamics, Apptio, Arrow Strategies, Blue Care Network, CA, Comerica, Delphi, Dynatrace, Ernst & Young, Executive Search Partners, Information Builders, JDM System Consultants, Lochbridge, Mercedes Benz Financial Services, NSK Green Construction, Online Tech, OnStar, Open Systems Technologies, Optech, Oracle, Pegasystems, Quicken Loans, Ricoh, Stefanini, TEKsystems, V2Soft Inc., Code42, Fujitsu, HP, KLA Laboratories, Meta7, NetApp, New Horizons, University of Detroit-Mercy, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Lawrence Technological University, Wayne State

University, LESA, WCCCD, Commercial Progression, EMC, Henry Ford Health System, Lighttower Fiber Networks, Logicallis, Microsoft, MSX International, Red Hat, Service Now, Thirdware, Vision IT, Web Savvy Marketing, and ZF TRW.

MCWT supporters also contribute to scholarships through [Friends of MCWT](#).

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation strives to inspire and grow women in technology fields, aspiring 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](#) and [Facebook](#).

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