



Hi! My name is Julia Schmidt. I graduated from Brookfield Central High School in 2015. If you are a high school girl who is interested in or has an aptitude for tech, I really encourage you to consider applying for the NCWIT Aspirations for Computing award.

When I was a Junior in high school, I was encouraged to apply and I didn't want to. I had taken a couple of technical classes but nothing that I felt qualified me for any sort of recognition. I certainly was not yet sure that I would be pursuing a technical degree in college. But I decided to fill out the application. It got me thinking about what I was doing and what I might be interested in doing in the future to explore my interest in technology.

I was surprised to find out that I was named a State runner up! I was connected to NCWIT as an organization, and the experience inspired me to take more technical coursework, volunteer to coordinate an elementary coding club, participate in technical challenges, and enroll in a college level data structures class my senior year of high school.

That year, I applied again and I not only won the State of WI Affiliate Award, I was named a National runner-up! I was invited to share my aspirations with other girls as part of the NCWIT Awards panel.

I am now part of the honors college at ASU's Polytechnic campus. I am a software engineering student with an emphasis in web & mobile development, and I am pursuing a minor in Human Systems Engineering. I hope to utilize my experiences here to really make a difference in the tech community after graduation.

In college, NCWIT has inspired me by giving me a window into a community of women all involved in and passionate about technology. Especially in a predominantly male career field such as computer science, it's really great to have role models to look up to and connect with. They were all doing such exciting things in tech. They inspired me to pursue an internship following my freshman year of college where, among other things, I worked with a group of students (pictured above) to build a Raspberry Pi tiny-titan supercomputer and deploy Google's tensor flow, along with the recently open-sourced natural language processing library- SyntaxNet - on the tiny-titan.

NCWIT winners also have the opportunity to apply for a collegiate award based on projects or ideas that they have, and winners of that award receive \$10,000 to develop their ideas.

You may be feeling as though it's not worth your time to apply for the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing award. I can tell you from experience that it can open up a number of possibilities that otherwise might not be possible. Please consider applying. Good luck!!!!