The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is a non-profit community of more than 850 universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations nationwide working to increase women’s participation in computing and technology. NCWIT equips change leaders with resources for taking action in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women from K–12 and higher education through industry and entrepreneurial careers.

We believe that inspiring more women to choose careers in IT isn’t about parity; it’s a compelling issue of innovation, competitiveness, and workforce sustainability. In a global economy, gender diversity in IT means a larger and more competitive workforce, in a world dependent on innovation; it means the ability to design technology that is as broad and creative as the people it serves.
As a Regional Affiliate Manager for the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award, Eva supports volunteer affiliate teams’ efforts to recognize young women and their educators. Prior to NCWIT, Eva served as the Director of Online Learning at Zane State College. She has been an IT professional in higher education for over 25 years, empowering young women in local community after-school programs and mentoring female professionals entering the IT workforce. Eva enjoys sharing her IT career journey with other women to encourage them to contribute their unique talents. She lives in Columbus, Ohio and has a strong love for the Ohio State Buckeyes, her husband (John), two grown daughters, and black lab (Woody).

Kerrie Hoffman was most recently Vice President of Information Technology (IT), leading IT for the Building Efficiency Business Unit of Johnson Controls Inc. Her career spans three Industries and multiple functions including Operations, Supply Chain, Sales, and Information Technology. Previous employers include Aurora Health Care, Johnson and Johnson, and her role at Johnson Controls Inc. She is active in the community as a Board member for United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County, Board member for Girl Scouts of Wisconsin South East, and Co-Chair of IT United, a United Way of Milwaukee Board Affinity Group.

Key accomplishments span areas as diverse as: digital architecture, digital data and Internet of Things (IoT); significantly improving productivity through process transformation and automation; best in company Employee Engagement through Department leadership, establishing Innovation and Agile Practices; and significantly increasing market share/revenue through IT-enabled business capability.

Kerrie brings over 25 years of experience, graduating magna cum laude with a BS in Pre-Med from Purdue University. Having lived in two emerging market countries, Kerrie is passionate about digital business models, diversity and delivering growth through IT-enabled revenue/market expansion. Her current hot topics to rant about include digital architecture, IoT, and disruptive technologies – ask if you dare!

**Keynote Speaker**

Kerrie Hoffman  
Vice President Technology  
Johnson Controls Building Efficiency

**NCWIT Representative**

Eva Bradshaw  
Regional Affiliate Manager  
NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award
2017 Educator Award Winner

Aaron Pavao
Waunakee High School

Aaron Pavao started programming at age six and women’s rights activism at age twelve. Growing up in the golden age of hacking, he studied computer science, linguistics, and history at the UW-Madison. He worked as an IT consultant coding and installing networks before catching the education bug in 2000. While teaching computer science classes in Madison, he attended Edgewood College to become a teacher of math and computer science. In 2009 he started teaching at Waunakee Community High School, where he helped the computer science program grow to six courses with a dozen sections per year. His students have gone on to several careers, in and out of the information technology field, and he’s proud of every one of them.

2017 Educator Award Honorable Mention

Rose Hoffmann
Catholic Memorial High School

Rose is a lifelong learner spreading this love of learning to her students. Computer Science is her passion. She has taught Computer Science and Mathematics at Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha for 28 years. Rose is currently teaching International Baccalaureate Higher-Level Computer Science and both of Project Lead the Way (PLTW)’s Computer Science courses: CS Principles & CSA, and AP Statistics. She piloted both PLTW’s Computer Science A and CS Principles. Rose is a Master teacher for both courses and taught high school teachers for the past 3 summers. She also piloted the AP CS Principles for 3 years. During November 2016 Rose gave a presentation on “A Space for all” on gender equity at the PLTW Wisconsin State Convention.

2012-2016 NCWIT-WI Educator Awards

2012
Robert Getka
Janesville Parker High School

2013
Thomas Wozniak
Rufus King High School

2014
Rose Hoffmann
Catholic Memorial High School

2015
Dean Johnson
Fort Atkinson High School

2016
Linnea Logan
Whitefish Bay High School

Award for Aspirations in Computing 2017
Payal Ahuja
National Winner, Local Winner
2016 Local Winner
Brookfield Central High School

Payal, a senior, took AP Computer Science as a freshman and has loved coding ever since. She took Data Structures the next year and did an internship at Girls Who Code-VMware, collaborating creating an educational app. As a junior, she took Data Structures II and followed by a teaching assistant position at Girls Who Code-Microsoft. She will return to Girls Who Code this summer. She was featured in the Girls Who Code official blog and a Huffington Post video “Why Girls Should Learn to Code.” Payal plans to work with Natural Language Processing, computational linguistics to more easily preserve endangered languages and artificial intelligence to make robots more intuitive.

Anne Havlik
National Honorable Mention, Local Winner
2016 National Honorable Mention, Local Winner
University School-Milwaukee

Through the House of Technology (HOT) program at her school, Anne diagnoses problems and develops solutions for technology-related issues. Through HOT, Anne repairs technology from broken iPad screens to re-coding a Mac when users forget their passwords. She presented at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association. She has presented at Independent Schools Association of the Central States in Indiana and in Minnesota on behalf of HOT. Anne has taken AP Computer Science. Anne hopes to expand her technological troubleshooting, repairing, and computer programming knowledge and skills to understand both hardware and software hoping to contribute to enhancing future technological design.

Olivia Mardak-Kennebeck
National Honorable Mention, Local Winner
Shabazz-City High School

Olivia, a sophomore at Shabazz in Madison, gained a coveted position with the Informational Technology Academy (ITA). She has worked with multiple Adobe software, and C++. Using JavaScript, she worked with youngsters and their ideas to create an artificial intelligence game. Sophomore year, she developed skills related to making videos. Through ITA she has collaborated to make a video. She recorded and edited it using Adobe Premiere Pro. She has worked with Ableton Live to make music clips. Olivia enjoys taking photos for events and nature and learning new computer science skills. She plans to go to UW-Madison to become an illustrator. Olivia loves to play ultimate Frisbee.
Anna Arpaci-Dusseau  
Madison West High School

Anna has programmed since she was seven, using a variety of languages: Scratch, JavaScript, Java, PHP, and C. She has made a rudimentary social network, a variety of Web sites, and several games. Anna loves to teach others about computer science and has worked several seasons as a teaching assistant in a children’s coding class. Anna would like to major in computer science and minor in political science in college. Her goal is to apply computer science in government to improve people’s lives nationwide. She is considering gerrymandering and computerized redistricting in the U.S. Anna enjoys tennis, ultimate Frisbee, her cat, and camping with friends.

Joanna Boyland  
Eastbrook Academy

Joanna attends Eastbrook Academy in Milwaukee, where she participates in Mu Alpha Theta and the Board Game Club, and assists with the middle school Mythology Club. She has enjoyed classes in discrete math and number theory through ArtOfProblemSolving.com, and Latin poetry through LonePineClassical.com, where she captains the Certamen team. She attends Girls Who Code, works as an instructor at Mathnasium, plays cello with the group I Cellisti, and has won a Scholastic Regional Silver Key for her creative writing. Her favorite annual event is the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad. After last summer’s Intermediate Programming course at Leap@CMU, the Director asked her to return as a teaching assistant. Joanna looks forward to more computing challenges.

Tenzin Chokyi  
Madison East High School

Tenzin, a senior at Madison East, has been a member of the Information Technology Academy since eighth grade, where she learned different coding languages, graphic and sound design, and video production. Last summer, she interned as a Web developer at the Institute on Aging at UW-Madison. Tenzin hopes to help get more women interested in IT especially girls from her Tibetan community. She will be attending UW-Madison College of Engineering in hopes of pursuing her dream to become a Computer Engineer.

Swati Dalmia  
Pewaukee High School

Swati, a sophomore at Pewaukee, discovered her ambition for technology when her father started teaching her coding at age ten. Since then, she has completed research into artificial intelligence and machine learning for personal curiosity. In high school, she took Exploring Computer Science and Programming through Games and Simulations and will take AP classes in the future. She excitedly participated in her first computer science competition at Marquette University. She was elected Wisconsin Region Seven Vice President of Future Business Leaders of America and placed fifth in her category of business presentation. Her main goal is to start her own business, preferably with technology. She also placed third in the Woodland Tennis Conference.

Martha Dix  
Shorewood High School

Martha, a junior at Shorewood, became interested in computing and technology a few years ago, when she attended EnQuest, an engineering summer camp at UW-Milwaukee. The following year she took Intro to Computer Science, and joined Girls who Code. The next summer she attended Marquette University Engineering Leadership Academy. This year she is attending Girls Who Code 2 and helped to start a Girls Who Club at her school. She has placed in many Science Olympiad events, including Computer Programming. This is Martha’s second year as the Web site Editor for the school paper, she is a club and varsity swimmer, Vice President of the Science Club, National Honor Society member, and active member of Guatemala Club and Willow Hill Riding Club.
Miranda Grisa, Local Winner  
Homestead High School

Miranda, a Homestead senior, discovered her interest in technology in fifth grade, when she joined a robotics team. Miranda has since enjoyed learning to design, build, and program robots during her five years of participation in FIRST robotics. In 2016, she was a Dean’s List finalist at the FIRST World Championship. She has taken many advanced computer, math, and science courses both in and outside of school, and often uses video editing and Photoshop software. She enjoys programming competitions. Miranda is fascinated with discovering the many applications of technology, and hopes one day to use computers to solve global issues. She plans on exploring computer science at the University of Chicago.

Emily Gehrke, Prev award: 2016 Local Winner  
Whitefish Bay High School

Emily was first introduced to computer science during a summer program at the United States Naval Academy. Then she took an AP Computer Science class and a C++ class at a nearby college that trained students for the US Computing Olympiad. Emily continues to work on her skills in computer science through robots and various competitions. This year she manages a new club she created at her school for middle schoolers interested in coding. Emily does a lot of things outside of school including lifeguarding, teaching swim lessons, tutoring, babysitting, and serving in leadership positions of various clubs. Next year, Emily hopes to study Computer Engineering at Marquette University.

Hajira Fuad  
University School-Milwaukee

Hajira is a senior at University School-Milwaukee and participates in the Spanish Honor Society, Global Scholars’, and leads the Book Club. Most of her time she spends on research. For the past two summers, she conducted research at the Medical College of Wisconsin. In 2016, on an independent bioinformatics project, Hajira discovered coding. She taught herself Java and soon fell in love with machine learning. She is eager to advance her programming knowledge in college.

Ellawyn Fong  
New Glarus High School

Ellawyn has a passion for math and logic, which translates to programming and technology. She placed second in the Capital City Conference Varsity Math Meet in October 2016 and 1st in the JV Math Meet in March 2016. Taking Calculus and Analytical Geometry over the summer enhanced her competition performances. She took PLTW - CSSE as a freshman where she learned how to program Python and do 3D printing. She’s eager to mentor others in her school’s Cyberlearning Club. She would like to work with her love of math and computer science. She hopes to find a program for math and computer science that will lead to a field she finds intriguing.

Maureen Dusing  
Catholic Memorial High School

Maureen, a junior at Catholic Memorial, has been passionate about technology since her sophomore year. During a Project Lead the Way course, she was introduced to the basics of computer programming and the fundamentals of a career in technology. In order to pursue her STEM interest, she is taking an International Baccalaureate JavaScript course. She enjoys the challenge computer programming brings her and spends time out of class learning more. Maureen engages in other activities including being an International Baccalaureate diploma student, participating in track, Spanish Honor Society, Student Ambassadors, and being the Captain of her cross-country team. Maureen hopes to pursue a job in either mechanical engineering or computer programming.
2017 NCWIT-WI Local Winners

Katie Hayes  
University School – Milwaukee

Katie, a sophomore at the University School of Milwaukee (USM), is an active member in the school’s House of Technology. Last year, she presented individually at the 2016 International Online Student Technology Conference, and will be presenting this summer at the International Society for Technology in Education Conference in San Antonio TX, alongside other USM House of Technology members. With her brother, Katie won the Future Engineer Award sponsored by the Milwaukee School of Engineering and overall second place in the Engineering category at the 2017 Badger State Science Fair. Katie is currently taking AP Computer Science and enjoys coding and repairing devices, including her cracked cell phone screen and the hard drive cable in her computer.

Jessica Heath  
Mukwonago High School

Jessica, a junior from Mukwonago, has always loved computers, technology, video games, and being creative. As a freshman, she helped repair Chromebooks for other students at her school. She became involved with computer science when she took Intro to Computer Science as a sophomore. After discovering that it was one of her favorite classes along with Digital Photography, she took Game and App Design to learn how to create video games. Jessica is taking AP Computer Science Principles and Graphic Design, and she is going to take AP Computer Science and Database Management as a senior. She plans to continue pursuing computer science by going to college to become a software developer.

Sofia Khan  
Brookfield Central High School

Sofia, a senior at Brookfield Central, took AP Computer Science her senior year. The course was her introduction to programming, and she enjoyed the challenge immensely. Her experiences in Java have opened an avenue for her future. She hopes to expand her computer science skills and pursue a career integrating technology and intergovernmental organizations, such as the UN. She is the captain of the Debate Team, a leader in the Spanish Honor Society and the Red Kettle Club, an international DECA competitor, and a National Honor Society member. She plans on majoring in computer science and economics and embark on an educational path in computer programming and global affairs.

Jennifer King  
New Berlin West High School

In the beginning of Jenni’s junior year, her counselor approached her to join a new IT internship course called TechKNOW that involved working with her high school’s technology department. She quickly accepted and began working with students and staff to assist with any technological problems they encountered and studying towards industry certifications. She familiarized herself with different archiving and ticketing software, began managing and making repairs, and worked with and promoted the program to different companies and local leaders. Jenni has taken other STEM-related courses in school, e.g. computer programming and computer science, and was employed by her school district over the summer as an intern in their technology department.

Olivia Krueger, Prev award: 2016 Local Winner  
Sheboygan Falls High School

Olivia, a senior at Sheboygan Falls, is an active member of her school and community. She has acted in four musicals and has most recently earned the lead in Bye Bye Birdie. She has captained her school’s Forensics Team, and she is a lead artist in the Society of Fine Artists Club. This year will be Olivia’s third year the county FIRST robotics team, and her second year as Captain. She has served as a programmer, assembly captain, and electrical captain for her team. Olivia works as an Apprentice Engineer at Kohler Company in their Kitchens New Product Development group. She will study Mechanical Engineering at UW-Stout.
Mikayla Martin
Home School

Mikayla, a homeschooled senior, joined an FTC robotics team four years ago, which sparked her interest in technology. During her first year, she helped build the drivetrain, wire the robot, and learn RobotC. Mikayla has taken courses in Python, Java, Adobe Premiere, and HTML. She loves organizing FIRST LEGO League Jr. expos to encourage kids to pursue science and technology. Mikayla enjoys making things out of duct tape and even ran her own business for a year selling her products. Mikayla found her passion in business by serving as captain of the business team for three years, and she hopes to continue using technology in her future career.

Raquel Montanye
Janesville Parker High School

Raquel, a junior at Parker, Raquel got involved in computer science in eighth grade after meeting a high school computer science teacher. She has taken Programming I, Programming II, and AP Computer Science. Raquel is taking Computer Science AB Java through UW-Whitewater. She is on a FIRST Robotics team on its programming team, its electronics team, and one of the lead team scouts. Raquel helps in her community applying computer science. After graduation, Raquel plans on majoring in the computer science field.

Jessica Nelson
Baraboo High School

Jessica says her greatest technical accomplishment is programming since she was a freshman. She believes everyone should know how to code because we live in a world where technology is a key to life. She plans to become a programmer for one of the big names of technology such as Apple, Microsoft, Intel, or others. She really would like to give others the chance to have the technology she does, such as those in third world countries or those whose government restricts their access. Jessica wants use her talent to help others in need. She plans on attending UW-La Crosse for computer science.

Haley Richards, Prev award: 2016 Local Honorable Mention
Menomonee Falls High School

Haley, a senior at Menomonee Falls, notes her greatest technical accomplishment as a Web site that qualified her for the 2016 Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference. Haley enjoyed AP Computer Science A and is now studying AP Computer Science Principles. She plans to double major in Accounting and Computer Science at the UW-Madison. Haley’s dream is to work as a software developer for a Big Four accounting firm, designing programs to allow for efficient and accessible data management.

Lauren Roskopf
Brookfield Central High School

Lauren, a freshman at Brookfield Central was first introduced to computer programming when her Girl Scout troop leader taught her troop Scratch. She has worked with many younger girls, teaching them about computer science. Her Girl Scout Silver Award, focused on introducing girls grades 1-3 to computer programming using the programs Scratch and code.org. Lauren has competed in FIRST LEGO League, where she and her team programmed a Lego Robot to complete different tasks. She hopes to take more classes that meet her interests and would like to explore the creative as well as scientific side of computer programming in depth.
Anja Schwobe  
New Berlin Eisenhower High School

Anja, a freshman at New Berlin Eisenhower, enjoys snowboarding, the cross-country team, and District's robotics team. Her interest in technology was sparked by a documentary about a FIRST robotics competition and further fueled by learning how to create video games during a summer STEM camp. Anja is fluent in German after attending Milwaukee German Immersion and Milwaukee School of Languages. She continues her German studies through eAchieve online courses on top of her STEM-focused school work. She volunteers as a Web leader, helping to familiarize new students with the school and the use of Chromebooks. She aspires to a career in engineering and dreams of attending MSOE.

Erin Seichter, Prev award: 2016 Local Honorable Mention  
Janesville Parker High School

Erin, a senior at Parker is ranked first in her class. She became interested in computer science freshman year after her eighth-grade math teacher suggested Programming I, and has loved it ever since. Erin has taken Programming II and performed well on the AP Computer Science exam. She is taking Advanced Computer Science AB Java through UW-Whitewater. Erin is a programmer and driver for a FIRST Robotics team and volunteers for a local FIRST LEGO League team. Erin pursue a computer science degree.

Jessica Smith  
Janesville Parker High School

Jessica is a freshman at Parker in Janesville. Her number one passion is computer science. She is taking Computer Programming II, is a member of Parker’s Robotics Team, and has served as a volunteer for BadgerBots. She plans to take AP Computer Science during her sophomore year. Jessica is a member of her school’s soccer team and Art Club. After college graduation, Jessica wants to be a video game designer.

Sophia Werner  
Janesville Craig High School

Sophie, a senior, is taking the highest-level computer courses offered at her school, aiding in summer school robotics courses, and founding and running her school’s Computer Club. Sophie enjoys exposing children grades 3-12 to Computer Science and learning more about it herself. You can find Sophie working for her city government at her IT apprenticeship or volunteering at her local library's coding camps. Sophie's MIT Zero Robotics team had the honor of placing tenth in the world and got to see their code on the International Space Station. She looks forward to her future journey at a university and beyond.

Jaclyn Windorff  
New Berlin West High School

Jaclyn is a senior at New Berlin West. Starting in elementary school, Jaclyn found an interest in math and science. This lead her to take STEM classes during the summer and then to take computer classes. She finds that programming uses much of the science and math logic she loves while still allowing for much creativity. She enjoys programming, mainly in Java, running, and reading a wide variety of books. Jaclyn previously received the honor of being the student of the quarter at her school in the Computer Science Department. She will be attending college next year as a computer science major with some courses focusing on cybersecurity.
Rachel Woody, Prev award: 2016 Local Honorable Mention
Middleton High School

As an intern at the UW Center for Particle Astrophysics, Rachel helped model data that allows scientists to observe the mysterious insides of astronomical events. At Stanford Precollegiate Institutes, she developed neural networks to perform image classification and prediction. Thanks to these experiences and the guidance of Lori Hunt, who teaches AP CS Principles and AP Programming at Middleton, Rachel is proficient in Java and Python. She imparted her passion for STEM to younger generations by serving as a leadership intern at a local elementary school’s Camp Invention program. She is the Director of Academic Tutoring at Middleton. Rachel will continue studying the ways in which the human brain can be better understood, enhanced, and restored by machines.

Rosee Xiong
Madison East High School

Rosee is a senior at Madison East High. She has been a member of the Information Technology Academy (ITA) for four years, through which she has learned coding, graphic and sound design, and video production. Through ITA, she had the opportunity to take part in youth STEM outreach, where she made a video game for elementary school students. As an Ambassador, Rosee traveled to Silicon Valley and had the opportunity to present about ITA’s work at Google and other technology companies. Rosee also completed an internship with UW-Madison’s Division of Information Technology’s Video Production Services. Rosee enjoys drawing and volunteering at a local community center. She will be studying computer science at the UW-Madison in fall 2017.

Anna Andler
Mukwonago High School

Anna is a sophomore at Mukwonago. Anna was slightly interested in computer science throughout her childhood but a few summers ago, she came across a Web site that teaches Web site design and got hooked on coding. Soon after she decided to join her school’s I.T. Academy as well as the Robotics Team where she is the strategy lead. She serves her community through Ecology and Key Club. Anna hopes to one day work with a group who retains the same interests as NASA does to help tackle ongoing problems with computer science, after attending college.

Mya Berry
Madison Memorial High School

Mya is a senior at Madison Memorial. She has been a member of the Information Technology Academy (ITA) since 2013. At ITA, she has been exposed to different coding languages, Adobe software, and video production. Through ITA, she was able to spend a summer interning for the program, in which she imaged laptops for the incoming ITA class of 2020. She teaches elementary school girls how to program, and her goal is to inspire young girls to get involved in STEM. Mya’s plans include studying at UW-Madison and majoring in computer science.
Emily Chou
University School-Milwaukee

Emily, a senior at University School-Milwaukee became interested in computer science by first studying HTML and CSS on Codecademy so she could learn how to make Web sites. She continued to study front-end programming in a Ruby on Rails course the summer before her junior year, when she took AP Computer Science and enjoyed it. She completed an internship with a local company testing their scheduling optimizing software and cleaning up databases. Emily is taking AP Computer Science Principles. She has used her skills to create a family Web site. Emily is unsure about her college plans, but knows that computer science will be useful no matter where she ends up.
Victoria Flinn
Wilmot Union High

Victoria, a senior at Wilmot Union, started her passion for computers at a young age by helping her brother take apart old computers. She is enrolled in Project Lead The Way (PLTW), Intro to Computer Science, and Computer Science Principles. She has completed Cisco IT Essentials, and Intro to Networking/Web Concepts. She intertwines her computer science courses with her PLTW Biomedical Science courses. She is proficient in Python, troubleshooting, and creative solutions. Victoria is producing an app for her capstone project that is to help the elderly remember to take their medications. She is seeking a job in cybersecurity. She will continue to stand for women in IT.

Kristina Hopkins, Prev award: 2016 Local Honorable Mention
University School-Milwaukee

Kristina is a senior at University School-Milwaukee where she has taken Big Ideas in Computer Science and AP Computer Science. She has been working on an independent capstone project throughout senior year to research effective ways to teach and inspire youth about computer science. In the future, she hopes to continue studying computer science in college. Kristina is interested in education and Web design.

Lauren Hunter
East Troy High School

Lauren, a junior, is in her eighth year of participating in the FIRST robotics program and is the captain of her FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics team. Lauren mentored teachers who are teaching a middle-school robotics course and assisted in teaching an elementary school robotics summer camp. Lauren’s leadership and dedication to FTC earned her one of two Wisconsin Dean’s List Finalist nominations. Lauren participates in Soccer and Cross Country and is on her school’s Technology Integration Squad, Key Club, Student Cabinet, and NASA HUNCH Team. She plans on going to college for mechanical engineering with an aerospace emphasis.

Genevieve Jacobs
Sun Prairie High School

Genevieve, a senior at Sun Prairie, has committed to the UW-Madison for fall 2017. She took her first computer science course, AP Computer Science Principles, this year under the guidance of her beloved teacher Ms. Bethany Konz. Before this, she had been fascinated with computers from youth and had always been considered tech savvy. When discovering her passion for statistics and her hope of becoming an actuary, she realized that computer science knowledge and skills were necessary for the field and decided to enroll in APCS Principles. Prior, she had proficiency with Google, Microsoft, Movie Maker, and video gaming. Now, she has expanded her knowledge to Scratch, App Inventor, Python, and more.

Anja Logan
Brookfield Central High School

Anja, a ninth grader at Brookfield Central, first got interested in computer science in elementary school. Starting in fifth grade she led a computer programming club at her elementary school with her Girl Scout troop. In middle school, she continued to develop her interest in programming by participating in a FIRST LEGO Team through Girl Scouts and teaching classes to elementary students. In eighth grade, she led a class for girls at two elementary schools to interest more young girls in engineering and computer science. She participates in a FIRST Robotics team and is excited to continue to learn Java next year by taking AP Computer Science.
Natasha Lovelace
Whitnall High School

Natasha has received a local tech internship as a software developer and will be working full time in the summer. Natasha will continue to work as a software developer there throughout college as she continues to further her knowledge as a software designer.

Jordan Main
New Berlin Eisenhower High School

Jordan, a junior at New Berlin Eisenhower, took the Project Lead the Way Introduction to Engineering course in ninth grade, and ever since she has been inspired to find a career in STEM. Building her resume with all of the computer science and engineering courses her school has to offer, Jordan has solidified her passion for the STEM pathways and will certainly pursue technology-focused post-secondary options. Looking to the future, Jordan is excited to further explore the possibilities of a STEM-centered college and career path, and apply her love of problem solving to the real world. Jordan is honored to consider herself a member of the NCWIT community.

Cortney Olson
Onalaska High School

Cortney will be studying Environmental Engineering at UW-Platteville next year as well as competing on their women’s golf team. She went to an introductory coding camp her sophomore year, and ever since she has known she would like to study STEM. She has since taken other technology courses through her school where she has learned the basics of Photoshop, drafting, Web site building, and coding. She has also taken AP Physics and AP Calculus to help prepare her for college. After taking an engineering course at her school, she decided that she wanted to pursue an education and career in engineering. After college, she hopes to work for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Scarlett Shapiro
Omro High School

Scarlett’s love of technology blossomed early in her high school career and continued to grow throughout. During her time in Omro she completed courses through Fox Valley Tech and UW which earned her many credits that were all based in computer science. She plans on using her knowledge and certifications in her career and become an influential woman of technology.

Samantha Veum
Sun Prairie High School

Samantha is a senior at Sun Prairie and has committed to UW-Madison for Biomedical Engineering. She is working at UW-Madison in the Horticulture department researching the genetics of carrots through a Youth Apprenticeship Program. While researching, she learned about the need for programming skills when analyzing data. So she decided to take AP Computer Science Principles and has since learned App Inventor, Python, HTML, and JavaScript. She had previously taken Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Intro to Engineering Design and was excited for the opportunity to take more PLTW classes. She hopes to go to graduate school and research cancer to help develop new drugs or treatments.
Elizabeth Walther, Prev award: 2016 local honorable mention
Waunakee High School

Libby is a senior at Waunakee High School. Her love for technology started her freshman year. She had never taken a computer class until Computational Thinking. Thanks to the computer science teacher, Aaron Pavao, she fell in love with computers and has taken computer science classes every semester since. She knows VB.net and Java. Libby plans on attending UW-Stout to get a Game Design and Development degree. Besides technological interests, she participates in swimming and softball. Libby is President of her school’s Anime and Manga club. She participates in Forensic and won the silver and Critics’ Choice Award at the Wisconsin State Festival.

Madeline Walz
Catholic Memorial High School

Madeline, a senior at Catholic Memorial, found her love of computer science in July 2015, at Michigan Tech’s Women in Computer Science (WiCS) summer program. At WiCS, she learned how to use MIT App Inventor 2. In school, she takes several International Baccalaureate (IB) courses as part of a new IB program, the IB Career-related Program, which combines IB and Project Lead the Way courses. Last year, she took Computer Science Principles and learned how to use Scratch, Python, and App Inventor. Her current computer science class is Computer Science Applications, learning how to use BlueJ and Android Studio. In the fall, she will attend the Savannah College of Art and Design for the new User Experience major.

Grace Wellnitz
Waunakee High School

Grace has always loved math, logic games and problem solving. She was exposed to coding less than a year ago and is fervently learning all that she can. With a passion for increasing efficiency and improving processes, she looks forward to a career developing applications to streamline systems. She has won numerous awards for public speaking and is an officer of her school’s chapter of Future Business Leaders of America. She hopes to help bridge the gap between businesses’ IT professionals and their less tech-savvy counterparts by being able to speak both languages. Grace is an avid basketball and soccer player, and enjoys reading, working at Piggly Wiggly, helping others, and playing strategy games with friends.

Sierra Winter
Mukwonago High School

Sierra, a junior at Mukwonago High School, has been pursuing computer science ever since freshman year when she joined her school’s IT Academy. She is involved in Key Club and National Honor Society, and has three different Microsoft Certifications. Her main interests are in programming, Web design, and software development. She has experience in C++, HTML, Visual Basic, and JavaScript. She is enrolled in AP Computer Science Principles, and has taken six computer-focused classes in addition. Outside of computer science, her hobbies include photography, writing, and listening to music. She looks forward to continuing her education in IT her senior year, and hopefully attaining an internship to learn in a real-world setting.

Jade Yang
Sun Prairie High School

Jade is a junior in Sun Prairie. She enjoys reading, being involved with clubs, and experimenting in the kitchen. In addition to the love of reading and more, Jade also finds time to be one of four children to her Hmong parents and a granddaughter to her Hmong grandmother. Jade first became interested in computer science when she and her friend discovered Codecademy where learning different coding languages is possible. This inspired her to take Computer Science Principles where she learned to use different programs such as Scratch, Python, JavaScript, MIT App Inventor, and many more. In the future, Jade hopes to attend college to become a Computer Programmer.