

The logo features a dark grey semi-circle with a stylized sunburst or fan shape on the right side. The text is centered within the semi-circle.

NCWIT
Award for
Aspirations in
Computing

Oregon & SW Washington Region
Affiliate Award Celebration

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Lewis & Clark College, Portland Oregon



National Center for Women & Information Technology
www.ncwit.org | 303.735.6671 | info@ncwit.org

*The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is sponsored
by Bank of America, an NCWIT Investment Partner.*

"It is important that companies, especially those that count on technological innovation to prosper, support the advancement of information technology and computing. Vernier is honored to acknowledge these young women's achievements and to help them reach the goals to which they aspire."

David Vernier, CEO of Vernier Software & Technology.

Guest Speakers

Welcome

Kathy Zettl-Schaffer, NCWIT

Keynote

Oregon Representative Margaret Dougherty

Special Program Panel Speakers

Peter Drake Faculty, Lewis & Clark College

Alicia Kirkland Software Engineer, Zapproved

Andrea Dean Student, Lewis & Clark

Lindsay Von Tish Student, Lewis & Clark

Awards Presentation

Kathy Zettl-Schaffer NCWIT

Jo Oshiro, NCWIT Regional Co-Chair

**Special Thanks to Lewis & Clark College,
Via West , Vernier Software, NCWIT,
and our National Sponsors**



Oregon & SW Washington Regional Affiliate Award Celebration

2017 NCWIT National Award Winners for Oregon

The NCWIT Awards are presented at both the National and Regional levels. A panel of judges from higher education and industry read over 8000 applications and recommended 400 applicants for their exceptional skills, talents and aspirations. 50 of these are invited to the National Awards for a special set of awards and prizes. These are highly competitive and only 50 such awards are given each year. The remaining 350 girls who were considered as nearly equivalent and with exceptional merit, also receive National Awards as Honorable Mentions, but they still rank in the top 400 in the Nation.

Oregon & SW Washington did not have any girls in the top 50 for the first time, but we did have 7 young women in the judge's top 400. We honor them here and then present them with both their National Trophy and their Regional Trophy in alphabetical order with all of the Regional Award Winners.



Emma Barbee
Tigard High School



Kelly Han
Westview High School



Raveena Manivannan
Sunset High School

2017 NCWIT National Award Winners for Oregon



Brook Mylander
Sherwood High School



Anna Nixon
Westview High School



Dani White
South Eugene High



Elaine Yang
Lincoln High School

2017 NCWIT National Educator Winner for Oregon

NCWIT believes strongly that behind each inspired, talented, high achieving high school girl is a CS Program and a CS Teacher who helped her. As we present each of the girls her trophy, we also recognize that teacher and provide a copy of the award to the school. From those teachers, NCWIT has a National Panel of judges recommend 35 of those teachers as the National Educators of the year. This year the judges recommended both one of the 35, and an honorable mention for the Oregon and SW Washington Region



Terrel Smith
National Educator 2017
Sherwood High School Faculty
Oregon CSTA President
Sherwood, Oregon

Terrel “T” Smith is in his 37th year of teaching in Sherwood, where he has coached track and other sports. T champions technology education at school and through service in various organizations:

- 37 years of teaching in Sherwood
- Teaches multilevels of technology courses, coaches track and other sports
- Champion of technology education across Oregon
- State of Oregon STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Task Force Advisory
- ODE ESSA Teacher Effectiveness committee
- Oregon Education Association Teaching and Learning Cabinet
- Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association (Current President)
- George Fox University Education Consortium
- National Education Association CTE delegate

In 2007, T was named Oregon Technology Teacher of the Year by the Software Association of Oregon (now the Technology Association of Oregon).

In 2014, He was elected President of the Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association

In 2017, He was selected as NCWIT National Educator of the Year

2017 NCWIT National Educator HM for Oregon



Chris Bartlo
National Educator HM 2017
Wilson High School Faculty
Code.org Instructor
Portland, Oregon

Chris believes that having basic programming exposure is an essential life skill in our day and age. The computer science field has a wonderful combination of process-based thinking: logic, planning, organization and tremendous creativity. Chris believes that this is a discipline that will benefit a student in very concrete ways no matter which field a student chooses to pursue later.

Chris has two undergraduate and three masters degrees across a wide range of subjects. He teaches math as well as computer science.

He spends time with his wonderful family. In the summer you can find him on the river or at a music festival and in the winter you can find him on the slopes!

Working with students is remarkably rewarding for Chris and he is thankful that he made the transition to the classroom. He strives to create an inclusive environment that puts students in charge of their own learning. Chris is passionate about spreading computer science throughout the K-12 space. He works with Code.org, Oregon CSTA and numerous state and local initiatives to give young people more opportunities to code.

2017 Oregon and SW Washington Awards



Divya Amirtharaj
Westview High School
Class of 2019
Portland, Oregon

Divya is currently a sophomore at Westview High School where she has been on the varsity swim team and Science Olympiad team for the past two years. Her interest in technology blossomed in elementary school when she joined an FLL robotics team and since then she has been heavily involved in STEM through FIRST robotics as well as in her school.

For the past eight months Divya has been given the amazing opportunity at Portland State University to work as an intern under Dr. Christof Teuscher working with machine learning as an Android developer. She developed an Android app using OCR to aid visually impaired individuals and will be competing at ISEF in May.

Interesting Facts: Divya swims competitively and competed throughout the Northwest for the past eight years. She was also a competitor in the Scripps National Spelling Bee for two years. She plays the piano and is looking forward to her Level X OMTA examination. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital as well as with the Red Cross.

Future: In the future Divya isn't sure what she will pursue but is excited to explore many STEM related careers.

Ask Me About: Maroon 5 **Award:** 2017 Regional Award



Robin Attey
Catlin Gabel School
Class of 2017
Portland, Oregon

Dale Yocum has been teaching me robotics since I was in 5th grade, and I am forever grateful for the confidence and knowledge he has given me. I love harnessing the power of technology to help people and give back to my community.

The **technical accomplishment** I am proudest of is designing “Water Trotter”, a water transportation and purification device for women in the rural town Gojo, Ethiopia.

Future: Neuroscience researcher

Interesting Facts: In addition to technology, I love singing in my school's choir and playing soccer.

Ask Me About: Musical Theater

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Emma Barbee
Tigard High School
Class of 2017
Tigard, Oregon

Emma is a member of her school's technology team, and has been team captain for both the FIRST Technology Challenge (FTC) Team 750, and her Oregon Game Project Challenge (OGPC) team. She attended the World Championships for FTC in 2016 as a Dean's List Finalist.

Last spring, Emma received her CompTIA STRATA professional certification, and she is currently towards her CompTIA Network+ Network Administrator, Networking Fundamentals MTA, CompTIA Security+ Network Security, and Networking Fundamentals MTA Certifications

This year, she is Club President and Team Captain of the Tigard High School Technology Team, as well as the Engineering Notebook Lead for FTC team 3058. Emma is also a Club Officer for Tigard High's Astronomy Club. She has taken technology classes through her high school and Saturday Academy, including Information Technology Technician, Computer Programming 1, C++ programming, Lego Robotics, and many others.

Future: I am interested in studying mechanical engineering, with a focus in Aerospace.

Interesting Facts: She is teaching Scratch programming classes to elementary school girls through Saturday Academy. Emma was awarded her Gold Award for Girl Scouts for creating a free week long STEM camp for middle school girls. Women from various STEM professions attended as speakers and career mentors during the event. The girls participated in activities ranging from food and cosmetic science, architecture, forensics, code breaking, computer programming, and robotics.

Outside of technology, Emma is currently the principal oboist in the Portland Youth Philharmonic. She was also nominated for the Oregon Ambassadors of Music trip to Europe and played concerts in London, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. Currently, she is mentoring a young oboist in the Portland

Ask Me About: PYP and the oboe

Award: 2017 National HM
2017 Regional Award



Prathyoosha Chaya
Summit Learning Charter
Class of 2017
Portland, Oregon

I have many role models to thank who have cultivated my passion for engineering and computer science. I would primarily like to thank my parents and robotics coach, Venkatesh Chaya, who is also my father. He has supported my endeavors and provided valuable guidance and inspiration to help me develop my skills and values. I would also like to thank the FIRST Robotics community, which has helped me realize my potential.

I am most proud of my work to give STEM learning opportunities to people in under-served communities and non-traditional STEM learners. I created curricula for and organized a 12 week long after-school robotics club in a Title 1 school with a lack of STEM education in Hillsboro, to mentor the students and allow them to explore engineering basics through hands-on learning

Future Starting this Fall term, I will be transferring from my current Early college program (in PCC and PSU) to Oregon State University, where I look forward to continuing my Computer Science education. With my passion for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, I would love to see myself doing research in this amazing sub-field of CS.

Interesting fact I sing Indian classical Carnatic music

Ask me about Robots, coding, Early College

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Gabrielle Cohn
Woodrow Wilson HS
Class of 2017
Portland, Oregon

Who is most influential to me: My grandmother was a math professor at SUNY Stony Brook when women were still a relative rarity in STEM. I often think about the path that she forged and how much easier her efforts make it for me. With luck, future generations of women in STEM will not even consider gender an issue.

My greatest technical achievement is a game I developed last year called Quorox. Quorox is a single-player maze game which combines my enthusiasm for computer science with my long-held fascination with the human brain, particularly memory and cognition.

Programming is a great creative tool. I have tried and failed at many a DIY project with varying degrees of catastrophe, but coding always works for me.

Future: Next year I plan to attend Stanford (I've been admitted REA), so 4 years from now I will hopefully be graduating with a double major in computer science and biology. I think programming has the potential to create great advancements in biological and medical fields.

Interesting fact : I once had my lunch stolen by a monkey

Ask me about Rick and Morty rules

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Kira Corbett
Clackamas Web Academy
Class of 2018
Clackamas, Oregon

Kira has always enjoyed tinkering around with technology and figuring out how things work. Her enjoyment turned into a passion after her grandfather, an electrical engineer at Bonneville Dam, introduced her to C++ programming. Thanks to her grandfather, programming has become a second nature for Kira and she has introduced herself to several other programming languages.

One of Kira's greatest technical accomplishments has been giving back and helping others through technology. Not only has she helped her robotics team win district championships but she has always used her technology skills to help people complete tasks in a more efficient way. Additionally, she enjoys helping her community engage and learn about technology and hopes to encourage more young kids, especially young girls, to explore the innovative opportunities technology brings.

Future: Kira plans to graduate high school with her Associate's Degree with an emphasis on engineering at Clackamas Community College and Oregon Institute of Technology. After graduating high school, she plans to continue at a university to get a degree in engineering. Because Kira is also interested in the medical field and veterinary care, her ultimate dream would combine engineering/technology with medical or animal sciences to do 3D prosthetic printing for animals.

Interesting Fact: I am a canine trainer

Ask me about LED lights, animals, trucks, running, books

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Shefali Deosthali
Westview High School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

My father, an engineer at Intel, has been an inspiration for me to pursue my interest in the technical field.

I am very proud of competing at the OGPC (Oregon Game Programming Challenge) competition for two years and winning the "Technical award" the first year and "Best in Show" (first place in Oregon) the second year.

I enjoy working with others to spur growth in a field that has changed the lives of so many people around the world.

Future: I plan to double major in computer science and business administration in college and obtain an MBA in the future. I would like to work on Wall Street and I hope to eventually start my own business.

Interesting Fact I have been on the women's varsity tennis team since my freshmen year of high school and will be team captain next year as a senior.

Ask me about: Dreams and dedication.

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Marielle Derocher
Sunset High School
Class of 2017
Portland, Oregon

I have to give a huge thanks to my parents, both of which whom have exposed me to and inspired me with technology all of my life, and to my tech teacher at school, Mr. Galbraith, who has encouraged me all throughout high school to become more involved with programming and computers

Marielle's passion is creating things, whether that be through programming, art, or writing. In the past year, her time has been spent working on her programming projects, doing art, and dreaming up the plots of books and movies she wants to bring into the world. She's been enchanted with the logic of programming for years and enjoys how she can create things that are interactive and effective, with unlimited applications.

I've come really far in programming, and am very proud of the progress I've made in learning the Java programming language, as well as inspired by all of the possibilities it presents for me in the future,

Future: I intend to major in computer science and specialize those skills for animation. My goal is to one day become a technical director at an animation company

Ask me about: My love of dogs

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Megan DeYoung
McMinnville High School
Class of 2017
McMinnville, Oregon

As I have been pursuing my passion of computer science, I have been both encouraged by my family and mentored by my computer science teacher, Mrs. Elmeligui. My parents have always supported my interests, and they were ecstatic that I found a way to combine my love for math and art. Mrs. Elmeligui has challenged me to push myself to learn new languages outside of the classroom and has helped me grow as both a person and a programmer. As of now, my greatest technical accomplishment is the dashboard chrome-extension I helped create on an intern team at CDK Global during the summer of 2016. The thing I like most about computing is the combination of problem solving and creative thinking.

Future: I plan on majoring in computer science and minoring in visual art in order to achieve my goals of being a software developer or game designer. After I graduate from college, I want to be an advocate for women in technology and encourage others to pursue technology like I have been encouraged by my friends and family.

Interesting Facts, I am a painter and I have a collection of vintage dictionaries.

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Natalie Dodson
Catlin Gabel School
Class of 2019
Portland, Oregon

The most influential people to me in terms of technical interest are probably my sister, Anna, and my dad, Jeff, because they encouraged me to be curious, explore STEM fields, and pursue what I love. One of these things was robotics, which is where my greatest technological accomplishment comes from: helping to build highly functional robots for FIRST robotics competitions.

Technologically related, I most enjoy thinking outside the box to solve tricky problems in creative ways and working with other people to discover the most optimal solution.

Future: I plan to study computer science and genetics in college, and end up becoming a geneticist/medical researcher. I love playing sports, meeting new people, and learning new things (and helping other people learn new things).

Ask me about: running a half marathon

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Kelsey Downing
Tualatin High School
Class of 2017
Tigard, Oregon

There are many people who have had a positive influence on my life, but I would like to thank my parents for always believing in me and encouraging me in all my interests. Whether it was sports, academics, volunteering, or computer science my family has shared in and supported my interests and efforts. My teachers at Tualatin High School have prepared me for college and a career and sparked my interest in science and computer science.

My greatest technical accomplishment has been learning multiple programming languages.

Future: I will be attending college in the fall. While I am still undecided on a college and a specific major, I know it will involve science and technology, and I am looking forward to a career in this area that also allows me to help others.

Interesting Facts, I enjoy traveling, volunteering, and spending time with my family. I enjoy learning more about technology and the opportunities to do something that has not been done before and eventually make improvements that will be beneficial to society.

Ask me about: - Music

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Claire Edington
Glencoe High School
Class of 2017
Hillsboro, Oregon

Claire was first introduced to STEM the summer before she went to eighth grade at Girls Gather for Computer Science (G2CS). It provided her with her first taste of coding and engineering, and she was hooked, but it wasn't until her freshman year of high school that she really dedicated herself into STEM. She joined Glencoe High School's FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) team. Between tutelage and encouragement from the team's mentors and coaches and support from her family she not only gained many new skills, but came to the realization that she wanted to work with engineering for the rest of her life.

Through the robotics team Claire was able to start an FLL (FIRST Lego League) team at a local Title One school. She still mentors this team- creating lesson plans on topics such as programming and the engineering design process, interacting with the students, and organizing a group of dedicated volunteers. To this day this is her proudest achievement. Being able to assist in offering students opportunities they might not have gotten otherwise, as well as watching them fall in love with STEM, is something she hopes to do her entire life.

Claire likes working with computers and technology because she likes to solve problems. She enjoys designing complex systems and watching as all the parts fall into place, debugging code and watching it work, and the idea that someday she'll be able to solve problems that afflict people in an innovative way.

Interesting Facts, about Claire is her work with the Hillsboro Artosaur. She was part of a small group of people who designed and created a six foot tall robotic T-rex that travels the Portland Metro area promoting STEAM and the idea that engineering -commonly thought of as very linear and black and white- has room for fun and creativity as well.

Future: In the next few years Claire is hoping to attend a prominent engineering college where she intends to major in both computer science and mechanical engineering. After that she is hoping to work with designing robots that assist with medical procedures such as complex surgeries. On top of this she hopes to continue with efforts to increase female involvement in the STEM fields.

Ask me about: FIRST, the Artosaur, or G2CS

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Irene Esther
West Salem High School
Class of 2017
Salem, Oregon

My robotics teacher Mr. Smith has been the one to encourage me to pursue my technical interest. I have him to thank for my successful robotics career-- he has taught me everything I know. He took a chance on me when I was over ambitious and inexperienced and I have grown so much as an academic and as a person because of him.

Being involved in robotics and computer science gave me the opportunity to be a part of a Lemelson-MIT inventeam. My team and I proposed an idea for a self sustaining thermoelectric generator and we received a \$10000 research grant to develop our product. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to use my technical skills on a project that will improve the lives of so many people.

Future: I am a senior in high school and I plan to pursue a career in education at Oregon State University.. My teachers have opened so many doors for me and I can't wait to do the same for my students in the future.

Interesting Facts: I grew up in a single parent home with my eight siblings.

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Hannah M Fisher
Catlin Gabel School
Class of 2019
Portland, Oregon

The person who most influenced me to pursue computer science and technology is my computer science teacher Andrew Merrill.

My greatest technical accomplishment is the robot that I built with my FRC robotics team this year.

Future: I see myself going to college and studying engineering or computer science, then entering one of those fields after I graduate.

Interesting Facts I love to run half marathons.

Ask me about: building robots!

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Camryn Gray
Tualatin High School
Class of 2017
Tigard, Oregon

I have my dad to thank most for my interest in computer science. If it weren't for him constantly teaching me about computers since I was young, I never would have found this career field that I've fallen in love with. He's so successful in his career and I can only hope to be like him one day.

My greatest technical accomplishment was working on a team with software consultants to help to develop a video game last summer.

The thing I enjoy most about technology is how relevant and important it is for almost every career. If I get a degree in computer science I know I can find a job in almost any field I want.

Future: Next year I will be attending Cornell University and am hoping to major in computer science with a minor in computing in the arts. My dream job would be working for an animation studio helping to develop software for the company.

Interesting Facts: I've been doing Kung Fu for ten years.

Ask me about: Cornell

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Kelly Han
Westview High School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

My parents are my biggest supporters. They are always encouraging my interest in STEM and open to helping me pursue what I want. They give me advice, but do not always expect me to follow because they realize that sometimes I have to learn a lesson for myself. They are the ones that open my mind to what I can do with technology. They have also taught me to keep going when situations become difficult and rationally piece it together.

I am proudest of being one of the founding members of FTC team Syntax Error 42. We have won the Connect, Motivate, and Inspire award at local regional competitions, reached the finals for our division all three years at State and have gone to Super Regional's twice. It has truly been a rewarding experience.

What I enjoy most about computers and technology is its ability to create and accomplish. Technology has allowed for faster communications, quicker problem solving, and ultimately has saved an incredible number of lives in so many ways. Art forms have exploded with the help of technology and the amount of information available is truly mind numbing. We are the first generation to literally have the world at our fingertips. So much is now possible.

Future: I see myself taking more computer related courses at my high school and later pursuing a major related to STEM in college.

Interesting Facts I have never been to Europe. However, I am taking Spanish in school, so I hope to go to Spain soon!

Ask me about: Food

Award: 2017 National HM Award
2017 Regional Award



Grace Marie Harestad-Caudill
Tigard High School
Class of 2017
Tigard, Oregon

Grace excels in STEM classes, combining her interests in information technology and automotive. She plans to earn the Computer Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) certifications in 5 fields as well as completing the Program of Study for Automotive Technology before she graduates from high school.

She has become an FTC fanatic, learning how to control the robot she built using JAVA programming. Things she never considered doing before are now in the forefront of her after school activities. She is team captain for both her FTC Robotics Team and this year for Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) ROV team and also leads the High Altitude Balloon (HAB) Team. The HAB Team is one of only six high school and 55 total schools selected nationwide to support the NASA Eclipse Ballooning Project.

She works half days during the week at Metro Car Care, using her new skills to maintain vehicles, computers and the business' social media footprint. She participates in Chick-tech Portland and is an integral part of her church community, acting as a VBS counselor, program manager for back to school supplies distribution, and a member of Children in Action and Girls in action.

Future: Earning automotive ASE certifications through her on the job training at Metro Car Care, and earning a business administration degree at Portland State University (PSU) through the dual admissions program with Portland Community College (PCC) and taking over her father's automotive repair business, and expanding it.

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Tegan Johnson
Tualatin High School
Class of 2018
Tualatin, Oregon

Tegan has always loved technology, and is a part of her school's International Baccalaureate Program. During her sophomore Digital Arts classes, she discovered a great passion for working with computers which she hopes to follow in a variety of ways. Her school's CS classes allow her to advance her C++ computing skills with its rigorous college-based curriculum, and it gives her an opportunity to earn college credit through Portland State University.

She enjoys creating art using the Adobe Creative Suite at home, and several of her designs have been accepted and are used as "geofilters" in the popular app, Snapchat. As the Copy Editor of her school newspaper, not only does she proofread every article, she designs pages using Adobe InDesign; making the paper visually appealing is her favorite job. She stays active by playing goalie, midfield, and defense on her local soccer team and dancing in her local dance center's tap, jazz, and ballet classes

Future: she plans to attend a university with a focus in computer science or design and follow a career path that allows her to employ her many talents.

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Amelia Kawasaki
Lincoln High School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

I enjoy the logical aspect of computers and also how technology is always advancing and that there is something new to do. I'm thankful for my dad who helped introduce me to computers and coding and for his support up to this point. I'm also very thankful for my mom who encouraged me to develop my math skills, leading me to become more confident and pushing me to take more challenging classes so I could grow my skills.

The technical accomplishment I'm most proud of is my continuing contribution to the development of a next generation cyber deception product through my internship at a local cyber security company where I use novel techniques to assess system effectiveness. I'm also the president of the Lincoln High School Coding Club.

Future: In the future, I see myself at a computer science focused college, majoring in something computer science related. After that, I hope to get a job that's either cyber security, UI, or AI related.

Interesting Fact: I play the harp!

Ask me about: Computer security or harp!

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Susan Liu
Sunset High School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

Susan has been inspired by technology since middle school. Inspired by her Mom, who is an Intel software engineer, she attended Intel kid's day every year, and grew interested in technology at young age. She attended Intel summer code camp. She won first place in International School of Beaverton science project fair during 8th grade.

She has 3 years experience with Java programming, html5 , and web development and in 2016, had a engineer internship position at a cloud computing/big data company, through which she gained further industry experience in computing and continued her project into the fall.

Future: Susan would like to pursue Computer Science as her college major, and she can see herself working as a software engineer like her mom.

Interesting Facts: She is a competitive sabra fencer from Oregon Fencing Alliance. She is coached from Olympics fencing coach, and has won numerous medals including 3rd place in Oregon state game for women sabre fencing in 2015, and 16th Nationally in 2016 USA summer national championship Div III competition . Her fencing journey has taught her to never give up, even if she falls down, she would stand right up and prepare for the next challenge. In addition, Susan also enjoys playing piano, pin pong, dancing , drawing and cooking.

Ask me about: fencing, my internship

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Hera T. Malik
Sunset High School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

Hera's father was the first to spark her interest in computer science and technology, and her mother taught her to use her first computer. Both of them have provided crucial support for her interest, and always have fully encouraged her in her attempts to further it. She also has her friend Xavier to thank for helping her guard that interest.

Last year, Hera helped to create the first computer programming class offered at Bowie High School in Austin. The class was then expanded, and this year, Computer Science I, Computer Science II, and AP Computer Science are now all offered.

Hera enjoys the fact that technology is universal. It is something that transcends language and culture, and it can be understood by nearly anyone in the world.

Future: Hera sees herself majoring in computer science when she goes into college, and she has planned for careers in video game development, design, and animation.

Interesting Facts: She is nearly proficient in four languages: English, Urdu, Spanish and French and is working on Japanese.

Ask me about: Foreign languages and cultures

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Raveena Manivannan
Sunset High School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

Raveena's passionate interest for technology and other sectors in STEM blossomed at a young age when she first witnessed a group of older students tinkering with a LEGO Mindstorms kit in attempts to build a remote control robot. She has since taken several robotics and programming classes to further pursue her interest and has participated in various FLL and FTC competitions as both a programmer and a team leader. In 2012 her FLL robotics team won the Oregon State Tournament and advanced to the international level of competition where they placed second for their project research.

She also runs an outreach program called PEG (Physics and Engineering Girls) to get elementary aged girls interested in STEM related subjects and careers. Raveena has conducted several PEG camps at local elementary schools and has coordinated lesson materials and volunteers. In total, these camps have reached over 300 girls. She is also a teen leader in an program called Girls Engage in Technology to expose girls to computing and technology.

Future: Currently, Raveena is interested in machine learning and artificial intelligence and possibly getting a degree in biomedical engineering. This career pathway will help her expand her knowledge in computing and technology but will also allow her to involve projects that will positively impact those in need. Specifically, she hopes to have the opportunity to explore techniques and ideas to create life-saving technologies.

Ask her about.: Naive Bayes and Sign Language

Awards: 2017 National HM Award, 2017 Regional Award



Rachel Christian McWhirter
Tualatin High School
Class of 2017
Tualatin, Oregon

Many years ago, Milton, Rachel's older brother, gave Rachel her first video game, Pokemon Sapphire for the Gameboy Advance SP. Thanks to Milton, she became fascinated with the video game world and out of her own curiosity learned numerous programming languages with the aid of the internet, including Python, HTML, and PHP.

She is most proud of the website she developed from scratch and published for her independent study at Tualatin High School. It is still a work in progress, and she one day hopes to upload programming guides for other fellow programmers.

Rachel is also involved in multiple tech-related clubs. She enjoys being the Programming Lead of her high school's FRC team and co-president of her high school's Girls Who Code club. She loves how technology enables her to become whatever she wants, from a pokemon master to a dragon-slaying hero.

Future: she aspires to be a renowned software developer that takes part in creating a video game with stunning visuals, music, and gameplay.

Interesting Facts: Rachel also likes to stay active and has played Varsity Water Polo for all four years of high school, helping her team secure a state championship victory her sophomore year.

Ask her about.: pokemon

Awards: 2017 Regional Award



Elaine Meslow
Tualatin High School
Class of 2018
Tualatin, Oregon

My interest in computers and coding was definitely sparked by my Computer Science teacher, Jill Hubbard. Her initial support fall term of my freshman year was a key reason I am so passionate about this field today.

My greatest accomplishment has been successfully completing Computer Science 161 and 162 as college level classes through Portland State University. I have also helped to create a Mobile Makerspace for my community and was the founding member of a Girls Who Code club at my school.

I am continually amazed at the multitude of ways that computers/technology can be used to better the world. It's so exciting to be at the forefront of this rapidly growing and changing field because the opportunities are endless!

Future: After attending college I hope have an occupation that utilizes my computer science skills alongside my interests in biology or astronomy. Who knows, maybe I can combine all three of my passions and help search for the building blocks of life on Europa and other moons or planets!

Interesting Facts I have been to 43 out of the 50 states on road trips with my family. I have now made it my goal to visit all 50 in my lifetime.

Ask Her about: Space, National Park Road Trips

Awards: 2017 Regional HM Award



MaryCatherine Morgan
St. Mary's Academy
Class of 2017
Portland, Oregon

One woman that stands out to me as the most influential is Savannah Loberger. She has inspired me to go out of my comfort zone to run my own Girls Get IT! Camp, earn my Girl Scout Gold Award, create a robotics team, and major in mechanical engineering next year. She has encouraged me to reach out and inspire others as well as do anything my heart desires.

My greatest accomplishment would be working at OHSU last summer in a restorative dentistry research lab as a intern through the ASE program. I was able to work with 3D printing a resin that can be used to make dental crowns and bridges. The research I conducted is now in the process of being published with me as a coauthor.

I enjoy the advancements of technology. I love how we can invent something for one reason but we can use it again in a scenario one wouldn't think to use it. I love how available technology is to people, that around the world we are bringing tech to help with modern medicine and bring communication to people across the world.

Future: In the next few years I see myself going off to college to study mechanical engineering and continue to work with research. I want to continue running track and competing in college.

Interesting Facts: I absolutely love robotics.

Ask Her about: Robotics, Track, and Research

Awards: 2017 Regional Award



Amelia Rose Myers
St. Mary's Academy
Class of 2017
Portland, Oregon

The person who has been most influential to me is my father. He is a super-nerd who has sparked my interest in science and computers. He has generously given all of his free time to mentor me and the Science Olympiad team at St. Mary's Academy.

My greatest technical accomplishment is the robot arm that I created for the Robot Arm event in Science Olympiad. I successfully combined electrical, mechanical, and software engineering to create a robot arm that could place a variety of items onto targets, taking first place at the State competition in 2016.

What I most enjoy about computers and technology is the instant access to connections from across the globe, making it easier to collaborate with others.

Future: I will be attending Cornell University and majoring in Engineering or Robotics. Once I graduate, I plan to work in the tech field and discover solutions to existing problems

Interesting Facts: I stand just short of five feet.

Ask Her about: fencing

Awards: 2017 Regional HM Award



Brooke Mylander
Sherwood High School
Class of 2018
Sherwood, Oregon

The person who I have to thank for encouraging me to pursue computer science is my dad. He encouraged me to learn how to code and thanks to him I've discovered the wonderful world of computer science and programming.

What I enjoy most about computer science is the fact that there is so many interesting things you can do with computing skills. Knowing how to code gives me the ability to do something special or change the world. It drives the future.

Future: I see myself going to college and majoring in computer science. I then hope to work in app development or found my own company.

Interesting Facts: I also love to draw and take AP art as a side hobby from computer science.

Ask me about: Star Wars

Awards: 2017 National HM Award
2017 Regional Award



Melissa Nardone
Hood River Valley High
Class of 2018
Hood River, Oregon

Melissa loves to take on new challenges and inspire others. The most influential person in her life has been her father. He has motivated and encourage her from a young age to work hard and get involved with technology.

Melissa's greatest technical achievement is going to FTC West with her robotics team, Steelhead.

Melissa enjoys sharing her ideas and teaching others through technology and hopes to motivate others to do the same.

Future: she is looking forward to study and become an electrical engineer and to learn more from technology.

Interesting Facts: Melissa does ski racing and windsurfing in the Colombia River Gorge.

Ask me about: robotics.

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Anna Nixon
Westview High School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

I grew up in a household dominated by STEM. Both my parents are engineers and they instilled their love of technology into me. But it was my dad who truly inspired me to pursue science and technology; I remember waking up at 1 am on Black Friday as a first grader to go and buy the newest gadgets at Fry's with my dad. He always encouraged my sisters and I to build with legos or our experiment with our Snap Circuit kit. In 2nd grade my dad created a Jr.FLL team for me, a year later I got my first NXT and we would program it together in our garage. In 4th grade I started FLL and in 7th grade I moved on to FTC. FTC has made me fall in love with robotics and I have learned a lot from it, Of all the things I have done I am most proud of forming my own team and qualifying for Super Regionals two years in a row. I am currently a lead programmer on my high school's FRC team.

Two years ago I co-founded STEM4Girls, a non-profit interested in inspiring girls to pursue STEM fields. STEM4Girls has already been able to create an inclusive local community for girls, hold workshops, and help sponsor FTC and FLL teams. This summer I won the Marvel's Ant-Man Micro-tech Challenge by creating a plush Baymax with face detection, voice recognition and an interactive touchscreen GUI.

I love technology because it gives you a chance to have your voice heard. Because of my work with STEM, I got the chance to present at Autodesk XSummit and Autodesk University, two large tech conferences. Getting up on stage and having the full attention of 10,000 people was an amazing and unforgettable experience. I hope that I can use technology to not only have my voice be heard but also to help others find their own voice.

Ask me about: FIRST robotics, DECA, and puppies

Awards: 2017 National HM Award
2017 Regional Award



Nandhana Nixon
Westview High School
Class of 2020
Portland, Oregon

Nandhana is a 9th grader at Westview High School and is our youngest award winner this year. It is highly unusual for a 9th grader to be judged so highly by the committee. -ed

She has been participating in FIRST robotics since elementary school and throughout middle school;

Future: She is still working out her future, but hopes to continue in FIRST as well as inspire other girls to pursue their dreams.

Interesting Facts Nandhana loves to read and write, and has a passion for filmmaking! This year she is working with her friends on a VR Phantom Limb Sensation therapy for amputees.

Ask me about: Film making

Awards: 2017 Regional Award



Mara Pearson
Sunset High School
Class of 2017
Portland, Oregon

The person who was most influential in encouraging my interest in technology was my older sister Jeanie. She continually inspires me to expand my knowledge of engineering and technology.

I'm most proud of the product I designed independently at my internship in 2015. As a mechanical engineering intern, I learned how to use CAD software and was able to apply that knowledge to design a product for possible future production.

I really enjoy learning new ways to solve problems in computing and technology.

Future: In college, I am going to major in mechanical engineering.

Interesting Facts: In addition to technology, I'm also passionate about dance; I compete through a studio and my high school's dance team.

Ask me about: Dance and music

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Sivani Prakki
Sunset High School
Class of 2017
Portland, Oregon

The most technologically influential people in my life are my Computer science teacher Mr. Galbraith and my parents.

The most enjoyable thing about computers/technology is the fact that they have no limits and the power I have to essentially program their brain to do whatever I want it to do.

My greatest technical accomplishment is getting to program the oculus and creating a 3D adventure game from it.

Future: I hope to be in college studying medicine and computer science, or to be settled down as a medical professional with a computer science background.

Interesting facts: I am a second Dan black belt in taekwondo, and I am also an Indian classical dancer.

Ask me about: Girls in technology

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Gabriella Sewell
Wilson High School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

I have two people who have greatly influenced my interest in technology. The first would be my dad, because without him I would never have taken a computer science class and would never have discovered how much I love it. The second influential person is my computer science teacher Mr. Bartlo who has given me many opportunities to learn about the the different ways you can use technology and how it applies to the real world.

The technical achievement that I am proudest of is a Pacman game that I made in C++ during my first and second year of computer science, because I put a lot of time and effort into it and learned a lot on my own which was difficult with so little technical knowledge.

The thing I enjoy most about technology and computer science is it's diversity in applications. For me this meant that just because I found a new interest other than marine biology , I didn't need to choose between the two because there are so many ways to combine them.

Future: In the next 10 years I see myself going to a 4-year university, somewhere in the Pacific Northwest, and majoring in marine biology and computer science , then continuing on to graduate school to get my PhD in marine biology.

Interesting facts: I traveled to Cuba last summer on a mission trip .

Ask me about: climate change and U.S. politics

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Tyler Walker
Tigard High School
Class of 2019
Tigard, Oregon

The most influential people for my interest in computers and technology would have to be my parents, Paige and Bill Walker, my teacher, Steve Fulton, and the FIRST Robotics program.

My greatest technical accomplishment would be receiving the MTA HTML Fundamentals certification, which is the first certification I've ever gotten

I enjoy technology and learning different coding languages. My favorite thing about technology is that it always evolves, which means I can keep learning about it and watching how it helps people in their everyday lives..

Future: In ten years, I believe that I will be in college, majoring in Computer Science and/or Software Engineering. Eventually, I want to have a career in software engineering.

Interesting facts: I love Astronomy, including watching the meteor shower in August.

Ask me about: Astronomy, Music, Anime

Award: 2017 Regional Award



Dani White
South Eugene High
Class of 2017
Eugene, Oregon

I have been lucky enough to have many people encourage my technical interests. Chief among them is my dad, who has supported my STEM interest ever since I had a math mobile above my crib. Interest in math has always been something we've shared, and later on we also bonded over computer science and engineering. My FIRST Robotics Competition mentors have also heavily influenced my technical development by passing on their skills, running our team, and generally being great teachers.

I love that computers allow humanity to achieve bigger things. They expand our abilities and enlarge the realm of what's possible.

My greatest technical accomplishment would be becoming programming lead on my FRC team. Not only have I been able to have more influence on the software of the robot but also learn a great deal about leadership. Learning everyone's strengths and weaknesses as well as finding the best way work together has been a unique and highly rewarding experience.

Future: I plan to pursue an electrical engineering degree and a career that incorporates computer science. More than anything I would like a job working on interesting projects and developing products that will have an impact. I would also like to continue my involvement with FRC and mentor a team later in life.

Interesting facts: Last summer I worked in a computer science lab at the University of Oregon developing an Internet of Things device for bikes.

Ask me about: FIRST Robotics, Spice Girls

Awards: 2017 National HM Award, 2017 Regional Award



Elaine Yang
Sunset High School
Class of 2019
Portland, Oregon

I have many mentors and role models who have all, in their own way, grown my passion for computer science and STEM as a whole. I am especially thankful for my FTC team I have had the honor of being on, my family, and my programming teacher Mr. Galbraith.

What I most enjoy about computer science is that in the future, technology can be applied to everything and be used to solve many real life problems.

Future: I see myself in college pursuing a degree in computer science, math or some other type of science.

Interesting Facts: I love to compete, whether it be STEM related or Speech and Debate. I also sleep a lot.

Ask me about: FTC, math, speech & debate, or sleep

Award: 2017 Regional HM Award



Elaine Yang
Lincoln High School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

I started using the computer, when I was very young. I explored various applications and wondered how exactly they were created. Then, during middle school, I got more familiar with the internet and how basic code works. Thanks to my math and computer science teachers Mr. Tinling and Mrs. Addy for inspiring me to explore the power of technology.

I enjoy that technology can help people perform day-to-day tasks. With a dash of innovation, we are able to create tools that can change our lives when we least expect them. I am thrilled to take part in this exciting field.

My greatest technical accomplishment is my job as a website administrator for a private materials company, where I write, update, and maintain their website for public use. This entails both my coding and artistic abilities.

Future: I expect to be able to utilize my programming and problem-solving skills to contribute to our rapidly-advancing society. Maybe by then, I will have an idea of what college I want to go to. In the meantime, I am following my passion and looking forward to what every day holds.

Interesting Facts: I not only code, but I also create graphics and videos in my spare time. On a typical day, I often find myself messing with Photoshop or After Effects.

Ask me about: obscure music artists and anime!

Awards: 2017 National HM Award, 2017 Regional Award



Isabelle Zheng
Catlin Gabel School
Class of 2018
Portland, Oregon

Isabelle's favorite subjects include history, computer science, and math.

Isabelle enjoys technology because it allows her to create innovative solutions to real-world problems.

Some of her proudest previous projects include a music-finding web application and a wearable, Internet-of-Things health monitor. She is currently researching algorithmic trading.

Future: she plans to study computer science in college.

Interesting Facts: Isabelle is a dedicated flutist and serves as the executive director of a music nonprofit she cofounded. She also enjoys playing various uncommon instruments, such as the ukulele, pennywhistle, and dizi. She is heavily involved in Catlin Gabel's Mock Trial team, Model United Nations club, and Entrepreneurship Club. In addition to music, Isabelle is a passionate advocate of youth entrepreneurship and has led various startup teams during business competitions.

Ask me about: youth entrepreneurship and classical music!

Awards: 2017 Regional Award

2017 Keynote Speaker



**Margaret Doherty
State Representative
House District 35
Tigard and SW Portland.**

Margaret Doherty was appointed in September of 2009 to House District 35, which encompasses Tigard and SW Portland.

Representative Doherty's father was in the US Coast Guard so she lived in California, Guam, Hawaii and Seattle before settling in Southwest Portland, where she graduated from Wilson High School. She continued her education by working her way through Portland State University graduating with a degree in Speech Communications and Theater. She taught at Milwaukie High School for ten years. Along the way she picked up a Masters Degree at Lewis and Clark College. For twenty two years she was a consultant with the Oregon Education Association and represented education workers around the State. After retirement, Representative Doherty opened a home based floral design business in Tigard.

Representative Doherty has been active in her community by serving on the Tigard Planning Commission and volunteering at the Tigard Public Library for over ten years. She has always been a champion for public education and knows the importance of a good education for the children of Oregon. Representative Doherty currently serves as the Chair of the House Education Committee and as a member of the House Business & Labor Committee.

2017 College Panel



Peter has done research involving machine learning, games, data science, and computer science education.

His hobbies include board games and fire dancing.

Peter is site-chair for the NCWIT Awards and has been a member of the Regional Committee since 2011

Peter Drake

Lewis & Clark College
Associate Professor of
Computer Science
Panel Chair



Alicia Kirkland
Zapproved
Software Engineer
(Lewis & Clark College
2016 Alumni)

Originally from Houston, Texas, Alicia Kirkland graduated from Lewis & Clark College with a degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. At Lewis & Clark, Alicia served as a resident advisor, teaching aid, tutor, academic representative for the Math department, and community organizer.

Currently, she works as a software engineer at Zapproved, a tech company in Portland that writes software for corporate legal teams, where she started as an intern after graduating in May 2016. Alicia is on the Cloud Operations team at Zapproved, which is responsible for monitoring and automating cloud systems, experimenting with new Amazon Web Services tools, and, generally, providing development support to product teams.

Through Zapproved, Alicia engages in several projects throughout the wider Portland community, such as tutoring and hosting an on-site career day for students at Benson High School, speaking with students about getting involved in STEM, and volunteering for and attending tech meetups.

When she's not working, Alicia dabbles in DJing and music production, as well as outdoor adventures in the Columbia River Gorge.



Andrea Dean is a senior at Lewis & Clark College studying computer science and mathematics.

She has done research involving machine learning, has worked as an intern at HPE, and is a HackNY fellow for summer '17.

Outside of the CS world, she loves traveling, photography, and drinking tea.

Andrea Dean
Lewis & Clark College
Class of 2017
CS & Math



Lindsay Von Tish is from Anchorage, Alaska and is a junior at Lewis and Clark College.

She is majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Economics.

She studies cyber security and spends her free time doing hacking competitions.

Over the summer, Lindsay works as a global information security intern at Bank of America.

Outside of her studies, Lindsay plays violin and does fire dance.

Lindsay Von Tish
Lewis & Clark College
Class of 2018
Computer Science

NCWIT Representative



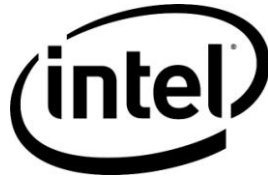
Kathy Zettl-Schaffer
NCWIT
Aspirations Regional
Affiliate Manager

Kathy holds a BS in biomedical engineering from Vanderbilt University and an MBA in information technology from American University. Her professional career began in research & development where she published several articles on hip replacement research. She moved into higher education and then the non-profit sector when she and her family relocated to Oregon from Washington DC in 2007.

Kathy currently serves on the leadership team of the Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association where she advises on programs and events and is a STEM education advocate. She represents NCWIT in Oregon & Washington and serves as a consultant to numerous Aspirations Awards programs across the Western US.

She enjoys attending Oregon Symphony performances and backpacking with her family.

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