

Female High School Students Earn Awards for Aspirations in Computing

Kansas City, Mo.— Feb. 3, 2017 – As part of an effort to encourage more young women to choose careers in technology, the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) and Kansas City Power & Light will recognize 15 high-school women for their accomplishments and aspirations in computing and technology at an award ceremony and reception at Kansas City Power & Light. on February 3, 2017.

The young women are winners of the NCWIT Western Missouri and Kansas Affiliate Award for Aspirations in Computing, which recognizes high-school women for their computing-related achievements and interests. Each winner will receive a glass trophy, a prize donated by Commerce BankL, an NCWIT messenger bag and swag items provided by NCWIT and local sponsors. Honorable Mentions for the award will receive a gift certificate (courtesy of .NetApp of Wichita and Northwest Missouri State University), a glass trophy, an NCWIT string bag and swag items.

“With technology jobs projected to grow faster than all other job sectors in the next decade, it’s imperative that we nurture the computing aspirations of women, who will make up half the professional workforce,” said Lucy Sanders, CEO and Co-founder of NCWIT. “This award allows us to recognize and encourage talent that might otherwise be overlooked.”

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing was created to encourage the computing aspirations of young women, introduce them to leadership opportunities in the field, and generate visibility for women’s participation in technology fields. Winners are acknowledged for their outstanding aptitude and interest in technology and computing, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.

Following are the 2017 winners of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing – Western Missouri and Kansas Affiliate:

- Maureen Botros, The Doctors' Schoolhouse, Wichita, KS (also a National Honorable Mention)
- Shannon Coupland, Belton High, Belton, MO
- Emily Davich, Staley High School, Kansas City, MO
- Hallie Edwards, Solomon High, Solomon, KS
- Stephanie Fu, Manhattan High School, Manhattan, KS (also a National Winner)
- Vale Gibson, William Chrisman High School, Independence, MO
- Emma Hubka, Topeka High School, Topeka, KS
- Shelby Jones, Lawrence Virtual High School, Lawrence, KS
- Chaney Leonard, Wellington High School, Wellington, KS
- Olivia Mark, Shawnee Mission South High, Shawnee Mission, KS
- Kiernan O'Boyle, Saint Teresa's Academy, Kansas City, MO
- Ruby Rios, Bishop Miege High School, Roeland Park, KS (also a National Honorable Mention)
- Chayanne Sandoval-Williams, Grandview High School, Grandview, MO
- Catherine Sauer, Camdenton High, Camdenton, MO
- Sydney Scholes, Liberty High School, Liberty, MO
- Erin Smith, Shawnee Mission West High, Shawnee Mission, KS
- Amber Stewart, Blue Springs High School, Blue Springs, MO

The 2017 Honorable Mention recipients of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing – Western Missouri and Kansas Affiliate who will be honored are:

- Samantha Baker, Blue Springs High School, Blue Springs, MO
- Isabel Battaglioli, Blue Valley North High, Overland Park, KS
- Madeleine Brittingham, Blue Springs High School, Blue Springs, MO
- Jordyn Brown, Olathe Northwest High School, Olathe, KS
- Wilhelmina Buchholz, Oak Park High, Kansas City, MO
- Alexis Dyser, Liberty North High School, Liberty, MO
- Carissa French, Liberty High School, Liberty, MO
- Dorian Gray, Summit Technology Academy, Lee's Summit, MO

- Rayna Hinchsliff, Olathe East High School, Olathe, KS
- Eden Kurr, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, KS
- Keshvi Mahalingam, Staley High School, Kansas City, MO
- Kineisha Mendes, Olathe Northwest High School, Olathe, KS
- Allison Riedl, Arkansas City High School, Arkansas City, KS
- Mia Schloegel, Saint Teresa's Academy, Kansas City, MO
- Sindhu Shakamuri, Blue Valley North High School, Overland Park, KS
- Rachel Thomas, Liberty High School, Liberty, MO
- Abigayle White, Excelsior Springs High School, Excelsior Springs, MO
- Emily Windsor, Liberty North High School, Liberty, MO

About NCWIT

NCWIT is the National Center for Women & Information Technology, a non-profit coalition of over 450 prominent corporations, academic institutions, government agencies, and nonprofits working to improve U.S. innovation, competitiveness, and workforce sustainability by increasing women's participation in IT. NCWIT's work spans K-12 and higher education through industry and academic careers. Find out more at www.ncwit.org.

The Western Missouri and Kansas Affiliate Award is brought to you by the following committee members and corporate sponsors:

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