





## About Kim Polese

As CEO of SpikeSource, Inc., Kim Polese is helping to bring the “long tail” of software to a mass market through its revolutionary automated application-certification technology. Prior to joining SpikeSource in August 2004, Polese co-founded Marimba, Inc., a leading provider of systems management solutions. Polese served as President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of Marimba, leading the company to profitability and a successful public offering prior to its acquisition by BMC Corporation in 2004.

Before co-founding Marimba, Polese worked in software management at Sun Microsystems and was the original product manager for Java, leading its launch in 1995. Prior to joining Sun, Polese was a consulting engineer at IntelliCorp Inc., helping Fortune 500 companies in the development of expert systems.

She is an Aspen Institute Crown Fellow and serves on several boards, including the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, the University of California President's Board on Science and Innovation, UC Berkeley's College of Engineering, the Long Now Foundation, and the Global Security Institute. Polese earned a B.S. in Biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley.

## About the Award

The NCWIT Symons Innovator Award honors an outstanding woman who has successfully grown and funded an information technology (IT) business. The Award is named in memory of Jeanette Symons, founder of Industrious Kid, Zhone Technologies, and Ascend Communications.

The art for the NCWIT Symons Innovator Award was created through a harmonious mash-up of high-tech and low-tech. Wordle ([www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net)), a Java-based web application, was used to create a word cloud using text from interview transcripts of the NCWIT Entrepreneurial Heroes podcast series ([www.ncwit.org/heroes](http://www.ncwit.org/heroes)), in which Kim participated. The Wordle design was then hand-colored and hand-printed on a traditional Platen letterpress by Allison Bozeman of Bird Dog Press ([www.birddogpress.com](http://www.birddogpress.com)), who works with post-consumer recycled paper from her wind-powered studio in Lyons, Colorado.

## Special Presentation by Jennie Symons

Jennie Symons is the 10-year-old daughter of IT entrepreneur Jeannette Symons, namesake of the *NCWIT Symons Innovator Award*. Jennie shares her mother's love of athletics and competes in Alpine skiing, Western and English riding, and dance. She recently finished #1 in her age level at the Nature Valley NASTAR 2010 National Championships in Apline skiing. Jennie is honored to represent the Symons family for the award and will present her own remarks.



national center for

women &

INFORMATION  
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## About NCWIT

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is a coalition of over 200 prominent corporations, academic institutions, government agencies, and non-profits working to increase women's participation in information technology and computing. NCWIT believes that inspiring more women to choose IT careers will create a larger and more competitive workforce, and will foster the design of technology that is as broad and innovative as the population it serves. Our work spans K-12 and higher education through industry and academic careers. Find out more at [www.ncwit.org](http://www.ncwit.org).



ENTREPRENEURIAL

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ALLIANCE

## About the Entrepreneurial Alliance

The Entrepreneurial Alliance addresses the causes and possible interventions concerning the small number of women who start IT businesses, file technology patents, secure funding, and transfer technology. This Alliance brings together representatives from more than 20 established entrepreneurial organizations who understand the factors associated with entrepreneurial success, and whose organizations work to increase women's representation.



## About Our Podcasts

NCWIT Entrepreneurial Heroes and NCWIT Entrepreneurial Toolbox are audio interview series that highlight entrepreneurs in IT businesses. Listen as they discuss their lives and their work - how they first get involved with technology, why they chose to be entrepreneurs, and what advice they would give to people interested in IT or entrepreneurship; as well as fundamentals of success such as how to network, write a business plan, or get funded.



Software Association of Oregon

## About the Software Association of Oregon

Over the last 20 years, the Software Association of Oregon (SAO) has helped connect technology innovators with people, ideas, and networks to build a foundation that supports innovation, creative thinking, and the entrepreneurial spirit. Headquartered in Portland SAO's 350 member companies draw from all sizes, industries, and professions.

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