

National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT)

Award for Aspirations in Computing

Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, New York City

Sponsored by Bank of America

AWARD INFORMATION SHEET

August 2008



Award Purpose

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing was created to acknowledge the computing aspirations of young women and generate visibility for women's participation in computing-related pursuits.



Award Components

Each qualified awardee will receive:



- \$500 in cash¹



- a laptop computer, provided by Bank of America
- an expenses-paid trip, provided by Bank of America², for each awardee and a parent/legal guardian, to attend the *Bank of America Celebrating Stars of the Future Technology Showcase and Awards Ceremony*, August 1-3, 2008, in Charlotte, North Carolina³



- an engraved award for both the student and the student's school



- inclusion in a video that highlights her accomplishments in computing, her future aspirations, and her participation in the Award events in Charlotte, North Carolina, as well as a copy of the final Award video



- For awardees who will be high school seniors in the Fall of 2008, an expenses-paid trip for the awardee and an accompanying parent/legal guardian to attend NCWIT's national workshop on Women and IT at the University of California at Irvine, November 5-6, 2008.⁴



Award Criteria

- Applicants must be high-school girls who reside in the greater metropolitan Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, or New York City areas. Preference will be given to students who are high school juniors and seniors during the 2007-2008 academic year.
- Applicants must have a demonstrated, outstanding aptitude and interest in IT/computing.
- Applicants must have demonstrated leadership ability.
- Applicants must have good academic history, typically a GPA of 3.0 or better. Applicants who do not meet this cutoff may be considered with an explanation of mitigating factors.
- Applicants must have post-secondary education plans.
- Minority applicants are strongly encouraged.
- A broad representation of area high-schools is strongly sought.
- Relatives of employees or board members of NCWIT and/or Bank of America are prohibited from receiving awards.

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Award Process

- Applicants need to complete the online application/nomination (self-nominations strongly encouraged) and submit the hardcopy school endorsement and hardcopy consent and release form.
- Applications will be reviewed by local committees of computing/education professionals who will recommend a slate of awardees; final selection will be made by NCWIT and Bank of America representatives in their sole discretion. Up to five awards will be given in each of the six greater metropolitan areas.
- Endorsing schools will be encouraged to advertise the Award and recognize the students in their school and parent community (through newsletters, for example, or award ceremonies). A press release will be provided to each such endorsing school.
- Each applicant and her parent/legal guardian must sign a release form indicating support of the student's consideration for the Award and consent to use the student's likeness and information in press-related materials, including print collateral, video, and media articles. Each awardee and that awardee's parent/legal guardian must sign an additional consent form before being videotaped during the Bank of America event in Charlotte.

Please note that all application materials and related materials become the property of NCWIT, and cannot be released for other purposes and will not be returned.

**Online self-nominations must be submitted by April 30, 2008.
Supporting documents must be received by NCWIT May 2, 2008.
Award notification will be made by mid-May 2008.**

¹ The cash award is classified as taxable income that needs to be reported to the IRS. Any applicable taxes are the responsibility of the award winner and her parent(s) or guardian(s.)

² To the extent required by law, Bank of America will report the value of the gift/reward to the IRS on Form 1099. Any applicable taxes are the responsibility of the award winner and her parent(s) or guardian(s). An additional cash sum will be provided by Bank of America to help cover tax liability.

³ Failure by the awardee and/or her parent(s) or guardian(s) to attend the Bank of America showcase and ceremony, or to participate in the award video, may result in forfeiture of all awards hereunder.

⁴ The NCWIT Workshop at the University of California at Irvine will focus on careers in IT, and will provide students with opportunities to network with members from over 60 colleges and universities and nearly 30 companies nationwide.