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Winner Bios + Photos:
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NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing Fact Sheet

What is the Award?

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing honors young women at the high-school level for their computing-related achievements and interests. The award offers both a national and local "affiliate" competitions to generate support and visibility for young women's participation in communities nationwide. The national award is sponsored by Bank of America, and local "affiliate" competitions are sponsored by Microsoft, the Motorola Solutions Foundation, and Google, and receive additional support from more than 300 local organizations.

Why is this Award important?

By providing recognition for technical young women, the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing encourages their continued interest in computing; motivates the support of educational and corporate institutions for women's increased participation; and provides a community of ongoing encouragement for young women so that they will persist in technology careers. More than 88% of winners in college report majoring in a male-dominated STEM field.

How are Award-winners selected?

Award recipients are selected for their computing and IT aptitude, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.

What do Award-winners receive?

All winners receive an engraved award for both herself and her school. National winners receive \$500 cash from NCWIT; a laptop computer; and a trip, provided by Bank of America, for each winner and an accompanying parent or legal guardian to attend the Bank of America Technology Stars of the Future Showcase and Awards Ceremony on March 10, 2012, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Affiliate winners receive various prizes including cash, technology, and scholarships, provided by more than 300 local sponsors. In addition, award-winners and runners-up have access to scholarships, internships, research experiences, and other educational and employment opportunities provided by NCWIT members.

What is the Award's background?

Research shows that girls often lose interest in math and science at the grade school level, despite their aptitude in these fields, and that encouragement and mentoring can have a huge impact on the education and career decisions that girls make. NCWIT conceived the Award in 2007 to bring recognition to young women's participation in computing, and to provide them with the inspiration and confidence to pursue their computing interests into adulthood. Initiated as a local event at NCWIT's headquarters in the Denver, Colorado, metropolitan area, the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is now a national competition with 31 local affiliate competitions serving 28 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

What are some interesting statistics about this Award?

- » The 35 national winners of the 2012 NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing and 200 runners-up were selected from nearly 1,200 applications representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and several overseas U.S. military bases.
- » The national winners hail from 20 different states in metropolitan, suburban, and rural communities, and attend public, private, charter, and home schools.
- » The winners possess a broad diversity of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds: 48% are African American, 12% Latina, 10% Native American/Alaska Native, and 5% are disabled; 23% attend schools where 40% or more of the student body receives free or subsidized lunch.





NATIONAL CENTER FOR WOMEN & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IDENTIFIES FUTURE FEMALE TECH TALENT

High School Award Recognizes 35 Girls for Computing Aspirations

BOULDER, CO, [January, 17, 2012] – The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) and Bank of America [NYSE: BAC] have announced 35 female high-school students as winners of the [NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing](#), a national award designed to increase the number of women pursuing careers in computing and technology.

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The 35 national winners were selected from among more than 1,100 applicants representing all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and overseas military bases. Each Award-winner will receive \$500 cash, a laptop computer, an engraved award for both her and her school, and mentoring opportunities with Bank of America employees. The young women will be honored at a Bank of America Technology Stars of the Future Showcase & Awards Ceremony on March 10, 2012, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

“This award helps make opportunity possible for the next wave of entrepreneurs and innovators,” said Amy Brady, Bank of America executive and sponsor of the company’s Women in Technology and Operations (WIT&O) affinity group. “These young ladies represent our industry’s future, and it’s exciting to be able to contribute to their professional growth.”

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is part of an NCWIT talent development program that encourages young women to succeed in a field where they are underrepresented. The Aspirations in Computing program provides young women with visibility, community, leadership opportunities, support, research experiences, scholarships, and internships. Since 2007, the Award for Aspirations in Computing has recognized more than 700 young women; 93% of the award recipients currently in college report majoring or minoring in a science or technology field.

“Technology has an increasingly important impact on all our lives,” said Lucy Sanders, CEO and Co-founder of NCWIT. “Bank of America’s sponsorship of this award helps to ensure that the technology of the future is created by people as diverse as those who will consume it.”

Following are the 2012 national winners of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing:

Kimberly Abrams	Pine Lake Preparatory	Mooresville, North Carolina
Diana Aragon	Nathan Hale High School	Seattle, Washington
Jaden Barney	University Scholars Program AP/PA Leadership Charter School	West Chester, Pennsylvania
Stephanie Barraza	Wastonville High	Watsonville, California
Penelope Biggs	Benson Polytechnic High School	Portland, Oregon
Brooke Bosley	Northeast Independent Preparatory Academy	Stone Mountain, Georgia



Wen Chu	Clements High School	Sugar Land, Texas
Rachel Cotterell	Spencer High School	Columbus, Georgia
Elicia Dennis	George Washington High School	Denver, Colorado
Stephanie Djidjev	La Cueva High	Albuquerque, New Mexico
Brandi Duke	Spring Hill High School	Columbia, Tennessee
Nupur Garg	Monta Vista High	Cupertino, California
Katrina Hammonds	Glory to God Prep	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Helen Hastings	Thomas Jefferson High School	Alexandria, Virginia
Courtney Hee	Lake Brantley High School	Altamonte Springs, Florida
Rachel Kohler	North Crowley High School	Ft Worth, Texas
Kyla Kolb	Lakewood High School	St. Petersburg, Florida
Tiffany Le	Poolesville High	Poolesville, Maryland
Madison McCall	Arabia Mountain High School	Lithonia, Georgia
Katherine Miller	New Albany High School	New Albany, Ohio
Monica Mishra	Peak to Peak Charter School	Lafayette, Colorado
Ebone Monk	Columbus High School	Columbus, Ohio
Noor Muhyi	Las Cruces High	Las Cruces, New Mexico
Catherine Mullings	Sacred Heart Preparatory	Atherton, California
Mopewa Ogundipe	Clarksburg High	Clarksburg, Maryland
Estefania Ortiz	homeschool	Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
Emily Peed	Ben Davis University High School	Indianapolis, Indiana
Patricia Perozo	The University of Chicago Laboratory High School	Chicago, Illinois
Christina Quan	Newport Senior High School	Bellevue, Washington
Aardra Rajendran	The Early College at Guilford	Greensboro, North Carolina
Andrea Rivera	J M Hanks High School	El Paso, Texas
Elana Stroud	Harvard-Westlake School	North Hollywood, California
Mariko Thorbecke	Hawaii Preparatory Academy	Kamuela, Hawaii
Ala'a Tolba	Fordson High School	Dearborn, Michigan
Amy Wiegand	Riverdale High School	Portland, Oregon

About the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT)

The National Center for Women & Information Technology is a coalition of more than 300 prominent corporations, academic institutions, government agencies, and non-profits working to increase women's participation in technology and computing. Find out more at <http://www.ncwit.org>.

About Bank of America

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