MSU, MTU and Oakland to honor state’s top young female talent in computing

Seventy Michigan high school women – who represent the state’s upcoming technical talent among female computer science students -- will receive Aspirations in Computing (AiC) Awards at ceremonies on Saturday, March 24, at Michigan State University.

The AiC awards are presented by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT). MSU, Michigan Technological University, and Oakland University are hosting this year’s event at the MSU Huntington Club, on the fourth floor of Spartan Stadium. Ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. with a luncheon.

Laura Dillon, MSU professor of computer science and engineering, said recognizing the accomplishments of these young women is just one of the goals of the AiC program.

“We need the talents of these young women to meet the country’s technology needs. On Saturday, they join a community of female technologists that will encourage their persistence through networking, leadership development, internship and scholarship opportunities, and much more,” Dillon said.

Linda Ott, associate dean for special initiatives and a professor of computer science at Michigan Tech, said, “honoring these very accomplished, technically strong, and creative students encourages them to continue in computing and helps Michigan build a larger and more diverse IT workforce to meet the growing needs of the state’s industries.”

Teresa VanderSloot, director for Women in Engineering, Recruitment and K-12 Outreach at MSU Engineering, said, “Women are underrepresented in computing fields. This initiative is helping us to increase the diversity pipeline. We look forward to these students’ contribution to future innovations.”

The keynote address will be presented by Terry Morreale, NCWIT president and chief technical officer.
“NCWIT knows that diversity of thought drives the innovation needed to solve our world’s toughest challenges. Building a community of female technologists, supporting them as they progress in their education and careers, and offering them opportunities is one part of our holistic approach to increasing the meaningful participation of women and girls in computing,” Morreale added.

Two Michigan Educator Awards will be presented during the luncheon. Honored will be:

- **Anne Hasseld of Hartland High School, Hartland** and **Julia Green of Notre Dame Preparatory School, Pontiac**.

Additionally, Elizabeth Koning, a student at Calvin College, will be recognized as an NCWIT Collegiate Award finalist for her project, “Thread Safe Graphics Library,” an educational tool for teaching multi-threading programming concepts. Her project was done under the supervision of Joel Adams, professor of computer science and department chair at Calvin College.

Students receive an engraved award and opportunities for scholarships, internships, research experiences, and other educational and employment opportunities provided by NCWIT member organizations.

The 2018 Michigan AiC Award winners are:

- **Abby Stewart** | Dearborn Center for Math, Science and Technology/Dearborn HS, Dearborn
- **Abigail Fox** | Central High School, Traverse City
- **Alexandra Halberstam** | Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor
- **Anastasia Warner** | Mercy High School, Farmington
- **Anne Ye** | Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor
- **Casey Hansley** | Kingsford High School, Kingsford
- **Cierra Murphy** | Southfield High School for the Arts and Technology, Southfield
- **Danniell Hu** | Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor
- **Deborah Torres** | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Portage Northern HS, Portage
- **Elena Tzalel** | Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor
- **Emilia Stehouwer** | Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor
- **Emily Parker** | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Schoolcraft High School, Schoolcraft
- **Emma Brown** | Midland High School, Midland
- **Gwynne Ozkan** | Midland High School, Midland
- **Haley Williams** | Notre Dame Preparatory School, West Bloomfield
- **Hillary Henry** | Bedford High School, Temperance
- **Holly Stauffer** | Midland High School, Midland
- **Isabel Holtan** | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Gull Lake High School, Augusta
- **Julia Naranjo** | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Kalamazoo Central HS, Kalamazoo
- **Katherine Perry** | Midland High School, Midland
- **Kylie Kalinowski** | Clarkston High School, Clarkston
- **Lauren Park** | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Portage Northern HS, Portage
- **Leanne Henry** | Greenhills School, Howell
- **Lisa Cao** | Athens High School, Troy
- **Marwa Albaadani** | Dearborn Center for Math, Science and Technology/Edsel Ford High School, Dearborn
- **Nicole Nelson** | Hartland High School, Fenton
- **Olivia Johnson** | Midland High School, Midland
- **Pavitra Attanayake** | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Portage Central HS, Kalamazoo
- **Sanjna Chalasani** | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Portage Central HS, Kalamazoo
- **Saskia van Nieuwstadt** | Huron High School, Ann Arbor
- **Serafina Kamp** | Stoney Creek High School, Rochester Hills
- **Shayna Sande** | JCC/LISD Academy: A Regional Middle College, Manchester
Michigan Honorable Mention Awards in 2018 go to:

- Anna Puca | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Kalamazoo
- Anna Sun | Detroit Country Day School, Canton
- Ariel Gordon | Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology, Southfield
- Baylee DeVos | Caledonia High School, Caledonia
- Bhavini Patel | Athens High School, Troy
- Bria Segur | Fraser High School, Clinton Township
- Brylee Pavlik | Midland High School, Freeland
- Clara Voetberg | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Portage
- Eleanor Mancina | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Portage
- Elicia Giachino | Calumet High School, Laurium
- Emma Fischell | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Kalamazoo
- Emma Jamrog | Midland High School, Midland
- Emma Pinnell | Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor
- Ester Guri | Dearborn Center for Math, Sci. & Tech., Dearborn
- Farhiya Osman | Clarkston High School, Clarkston
- Fateema Bazzi | Dearborn Center for Math, Sci. & Tech., Dearborn
- Hadeel Abulenin | Dearborn Center for Math, Sci. & Tech., Dearborn
- Jessica Zhang | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Portage
- Josephine Stout | Battle Creek Area Math & Sci. Center, Battle Creek
- Kate Diamond | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Kalamazoo
- Katherine Koning | Holland Christian High School, Holland
- Kayleigh Kostrzewa | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Kalamazoo
- Laura Albrant | Fenton High School, Fenton
- Lauren Dohnal | Oakland Technical Center, Madison Heights
- Manasi Desai | Athens High School, Troy
- Marina St. Louis | Stoney Creek High School, Rochester
- Maya Etienne | Midland High School, Midland
- Miah Caine | Cass Technical High School, Detroit
- Molouk Harp | Dearborn Center for Math, Sci. & Tech., Dearborn
- Riley Carlson | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Galesburg
- Sampoorna Ravikanth | Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor
- Yvonne Oja | Calumet High School, Calumet

Additionally, 2018 National Honorable Mentions from Michigan are:

- Abigail Guimond | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Kalamazoo
- Anastasia Warner | Mercy High School, Farmington
- Danniell Hu | Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor
- Deborah Torres | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Portage
- Isabel Hernandez | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Portage
- Lauren Park | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Portage
- Madeline Hinkley | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Galesburg
- Michelle Liu | International Academy Central, Rochester
- Miriam Eikenberry-Ureel | Houghton High School, Houghton
• Samantha Cobado | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Portage
• Saskia van Nieuwstadt | Huron High School, Ann Arbor
• Sierra Staunton | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center, Kalamazoo

For more on the Michigan Award for Aspirations in Computing, visit: www.aspirations.org/aspirations-community/michigan

Questions about the Michigan Award for Aspirations in Computing can be sent to MIAspirationsAwards@cse.msu.edu

Related Website: Michigan Aspirations for Computing
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