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 Hemry** | Bedford High School, Temperance
- **Holly Stauffer** | Midland High School, Midland
- **Isabel Holton** | 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
Shelby Martell | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Gull Lake High School, Gatesburg
Shriya Goel | Huron High School, Canton
Shriya Shah | Athens High School, Troy
Sierra Staunton | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Portage Northern HS, Kalamazoo
Sreya Manchiraju | H.H. Dow High School, Midland
Syeda Tooba | Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center/Parchment High School, Kalamazoo

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
Claia 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
Madeleine 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](http://www.aspirations.org/aspirations-community/michigan)

Questions about the Michigan Award for Aspirations in Computing can be sent to [MIAspirationsAwards@cse.msu.edu](mailto:MIAspirationsAwards@cse.msu.edu)

**Related Website:** [Michigan Aspirations for Computing](http://www.aspirations.org/aspirations-community/michigan)

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