2023 Pioneer in Tech Award Recipient Dr. Erna Schneider Hoover

NCWIT is excited to announce Dr. Erna Schneider Hoover as the 2023 Pioneer Award recipient for her role in revolutionizing the modern telephone system. Dr. Hoover was born in Irvington, New Jersey and graduated from Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey and from Wellesley College with a double major in Classical and Medieval History and Philosophy. She received a Ph.D. at Yale University in Philosophy, including symbolic logic and foundations of mathematics. She spent three years teaching various branches of philosophy at Swarthmore College. While there she married Charles Hoover, Jr., a physicist whom she had met at Yale. In 1954 when he joined Bell Telephone Laboratories, she moved with him to Summit, New Jersey. After a futile search in the New York area for a tenure track position in philosophy, she also joined Bell Laboratories. She found herself pioneering along with everyone else at the dawn of the computer enterprise, and pioneering as a woman in engineering, a field almost entirely dominated by men. She broke through three glass ceilings, beginning with a promotion to the professional level Member of Technical Staff. She was originally assigned to help an engineer write a book on “Systems Engineering”, the term that Bell Labs used for the initial overall assessment of a project. She was home on leave with her first daughter when her boss asked whether she was coming back to work. She told him she would if she were promoted to the level of professional engineer. He agreed. At that time, in 1954, Bell Labs was overwhelmed with the volume of calls coming through their system, and wanted to replace their hard-wired mechanical switching system with something more complex and efficient. Dr.

Hoover developed a solution that used a computer to monitor incoming calls at different times and adjusted the call acceptance rate accordingly. This intervention reduced the risk of overload in call processing. The principles of this system are still widely used. Since few people knew anything about computers, the Labs needed to set up an in-house teaching program. When she learned about this effort, she persuaded her boss to let her participate. After finishing the program she joined the team working on the Number 1 ESS [“Electronic Switching System] computer. She wrote the specifications for the instruction set for the computer. Following that she wrote the specifications for the operating system. As a result she broke through the second glass ceiling: she was promoted to technical supervisor, the first woman to do so at Bell Labs. She then invented an algorithm enabling the computer to cope with telephone traffic overload, an algorithm which the Labs patented – one of the first patents issued for software. Because of this patent, Dr. Hoover was inducted in the National Inventors’ Hall of Fame. She broke through the third glass ceiling when she was promoted to Technical Department Head, the first woman to reach this rank at Bell Labs. She managed several groups of programmers who were working on the U.S. Anti-Ballistic Missile system called Safeguard. Thanks to a supportive husband and a wonderful nanny/housekeeper she was able to combine her engineering career and home-making for her husband and three daughters. Once the daughters grew older she was able to volunteer on several non-profit boards. She served on the New Jersey Board of Higher Education and the board of Trenton State College, now called the College of New Jersey. During her time there the college became known for its academic excellence. It offers an affordable option for all New Jersey citizens. In 2020, the College awarded her an honorary degree, “Doctor of Humane Letters” for services to higher education in New Jersey.

2022 Pioneer in Tech Award Recipient Frances “Poppy” Northcutt

Frances “Poppy” Northcutt’s career includes groundbreaking achievements as an engineer, as a women’s rights advocate, and as an attorney. Born in Many, Louisiana, and raised in Luling and Dayton, Texas, Poppy earned a degree in mathematics at the University of Texas. In 1965, she began working for the Apollo program at NASA, initially as a computress and then as a return-to-earth specialist. During the Apollo 8 mission, she became the first woman to work in NASA’s Mission Control Center. She also participated in the Apollo 11 and Apollo 13 missions and was a member of the mission operations team that received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for rescuing Apollo 13.

As one of few women in engineering, Poppy became increasingly involved in the women’s liberation movement. She helped plan events with the National Organization for Women, a grassroots women’s rights group. Poppy is currently President of Houston Area NOW and Texas NOW. In the 1970s, she served on NOW’s national board of directors and was founding chair of the Harris County Women’s Political Caucus, the first Women’s Advocate for the City of Houston, and a special conference consultant for the National Women’s Conference.

In 1984, Poppy earned a law degree and clerked for a federal appellate judge. She then prosecuted and later defended criminal cases. She was the first felony prosecutor in the Domestic Violence Unit at the Harris County DA’s Office. In her private

practice, she focused on criminal trial and appellate work. Now semi-retired, she is a referral lawyer for Jane's Due Process, a non-profit providing legal assistance to pregnant teenagers.

2021 Pioneer in Tech Award Recipient Gladys West

Dr. Gladys West started her career at Naval Proving Ground in Dahlgren, Virginia, now called the Naval Surface Warfare Center, in 1956, and she worked there for 42 years as a mathematician and computer programmer. When she began, she was the second Black woman ever to be hired at the site, and one of only four Black employees total. Inspired by the civil rights movement that was unfolding around her, she countered prejudice within her workplace through hard work and intellectual achievement.

As Forbes reports, Dr. West "specialized in large-scale computer systems and data-processing systems for the analysis of information obtained from satellites. She was the very first person to put together altimeter models of Earth's shape to significant precision in the 1960s, and served as the project manager for Seasat: the first satellite to perform remote sensing of Earth's oceans." Soon after she began working at Dahlgren, Dr. West participated in an astronomical study that proved the regularity of Pluto's motion relative to Neptune. In a commendation that Dr. West received upon her 2018 induction to the Space and Missiles Pioneers Hall of Fame, this work was described as "path-breaking" and "award-winning."

The commendation also noted the ways Dr. West's work laid the

foundations for today's GPS system. From the mid-1970s through the 1980s, the commendation continues, "using complex algorithms to account for variations in gravitational, tidal, and other forces that distort Earth's shape, [Dr. West] programmed an IBM 7030 'Stretch' computer to deliver increasingly refined calculations for an extremely accurate geodetic Earth model, a geoid, optimized for what ultimately became the Global Positioning System (GPS) orbit."

Despite her contributions to several high-profile projects, Dr. West remained one of computing history's "hidden figures" until a member of her sorority realized that she had played a key role in the development of GPS technology, and contacted the press. "You never think that anything you are doing militarily is going to be that exciting," she reflected in an article in The Guardian. "We never thought about it being transferred to civilian life, so that was a pleasant surprise."

Dr. West grew up in a rural agricultural community in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. Knowing from a young age that she did not want to work in the fields, she graduated at the top of her class and earned a full scholarship to Virginia State College (now University), where she majored in mathematics. She returned to Virginia State a few years later for her master's degree in mathematics. While working at Dahlgren, she completed a second master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. At age 70, she received a PhD in public administration and policy affairs from Virginia Tech.

20 Members Honored for Technological Accomplishments and Change-leading Efforts for Increasing Diversity in Computing | Press Release

NCWIT awards celebrate outstanding contributions and encourage persistence.

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is virtually celebrating individuals whose technological innovations have made an impact or whose influence have inspired women to persist in computing, and institutions for their excellence in recruiting and retaining women in computing education. Recognitions will take place on NCWIT social media channels (Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook) throughout the third and final week of "NCWIT Conversations for Change: an online thought leadership series."

A summary of 2020 award recipients is as follows:

- The 2020 NCWIT Academic Alliance (AA) Seed Fund award recipients are Stony Brook University-State University of New York, the University of California-Riverside, Wake Forest University, and Willamette University. The AA Seed Fund, sponsored by Microsoft Research, awards AA members with startup funds to develop and implement initiatives for recruiting or retaining women in computing.
- The 2020 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing (AiC) National Educator Award winner is Catherine Tabor; a Math, Science,

and Computer Science teacher in Canutillo Independent School District in El Paso, Texas. Over her five years of teaching there, Computer Science education has expanded from zero classes to multiple courses, two clubs and an Honor Society. Since receiving her dual credit certification, she also teaches college-level, credit-bearing CS courses to her majority non-white and predominantly Latinx high school students. The National AiC Educator Award, sponsored by AT&T, honors educators for their efforts to promote gender equity in computing. // aspirations.org/20NationalEdAward

- The 2020 NCWIT Collegiate Award winners are Tiffanie Edwards, Fatemehsadat Mireshghallah, Kelley Paskov, Naba Rizvi, Eshika Saxena, and Ariana Isabel Sokolov. The Collegiate Award, sponsored by Qualcomm and Amazon, with additional support from Palo Alto Networks, honors the outstanding computing accomplishments of undergraduates and graduates who self-identify as women, genderqueer, or non-binary from academic institutions nationwide. Conferred annually, the award recognizes technical contributions to projects that demonstrate a high level of innovation and potential impact. // aspirations.org/20CollegiateRecipients
- The 2020 NCWIT Harrold and Notkin Research and Graduate Mentoring Award recipient is Mary Lou Soffa.The Harrold and Notkin Award, sponsored by the NCWIT Board of Directors, is given in memory of Mary Jean Harrold and David Notkin, in honor of their outstanding research, graduate mentoring, and diversity contributions. // ncwit.org/19HarroldNotkin
- The 2020 NCWIT Extension Services Transformation (NEXT) Award recipients are Grand Prize Recipient the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Computer and Information Science; Second Place Recipient New York University Tandon

School of Engineering, Department of Computer Science and Engineering; and Honorable Mention Michigan Technological University, Department of Computer Science.The NEXT Awards celebrate past and present ES clients for excellence in recruiting and retaining women in computing education. The awards reflect and reward practices that NCWIT recognizes as having the most significant impact on the long-term goal of increasing the number of women in information technology and other computing-related fields. Departments receiving a NEXT Award show significant positive outcomes in women's enrollment and graduation rates, and have excellent potential for building on these gains. // ncwit.org/2020NEXTAwardRecipients

- The 2020 NCWIT Pioneer in Tech Award recipient is Ruzena Bajcsy. Ruzena has spent much of her career at the intersection of human and machine ways of interpreting the world, with research interests that include Artificial Intelligence; Biosystems and Computational Biology; Control, Intelligent Systems, and Robotics; Human-Computer Interaction; and "Bridging Information Technology to Humanities and Social Sciences."Recipients of the Pioneer in Tech Award, sponsored by Facebook for 2020-21, are role models whose legacies continue to inspire generations of young women to pursue computing and make history in their own right. // ncwit.org/pioneeraward
- The 2020 NCWIT Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award recipients are Dr. Donghee Yvette Wohn, Assistant Professor of Informatics, New Jersey Institute of Technology; Dr. Susan Rodger, Professor of Practice in the Computer Science Department, Duke University; Dr. Dave Levin, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, University of Maryland; and Dr. Lenore Cowen, Professor in the Computer Science Department, Tufts University.This award, sponsored by AT&T, recognizes faculty at AA member

institutions for their outstanding mentorship, high-quality research opportunities, recruitment of women and minority students, and efforts to encourage and advance undergraduates in computing-related fields. // ncwit.org/20URMawardRecipients

About NCWIT

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is a non-profit community of more than 1,240 universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations nationwide working to increase the influential and meaningful participation of girls and women—at the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, age, sexual orientation, and disability status—in the field of computing, particularly in terms of innovation and development. NCWIT equips change leaders with resources for taking action in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women from K-12 and higher education through industry and entrepreneurial careers. Find out more at www.ncwit.org.

NCWIT receives significant financial support from Lifetime Partner Apple; Strategic Partners NSF, Microsoft, Bank of America, Google, Intel, Merck, AT&T, and Cognizant U.S. Foundation; as well as from Investment Partners Avaya, Pfizer, Bloomberg, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Qualcomm, Facebook, Morgan Stanley, Amazon, and Johnson & Johnson. View all of NCWIT's supporters at http://www.ncwit.org/about/supporters.

Now on Zoom: 2020 NCWIT

Conversations for Change | Press Release

This first-ever, online thought leadership series of events focused on creating inclusion and diversity in computing is free and open to the public.

Zoom registrations for each event are available at ncwit.org/ConversationsAgenda, and all webinars will cross-stream at ncwit.org/ConversationsLive.

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is holding "Conversations for Change: an online thought leadership series" throughout May 4-22, 2020. During this series of events (ncwit.org/conversations), nearly 1,000 change leaders—representing educators, entrepreneurs, corporate executives, social scientists, and others—will fully immerse themselves in research-based recommendations and peer-to-peer discussions to further individual and organizational efforts to increase girls' and women's meaningful and influential participation in computing.

The speaker lineup of renowned experts and special guests includes:

- Ruzena Bajcsy, NEC Chair and Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering, University of California, Berkeley
- Ruha Benjamin, Professor, African American Studies,

Princeton University
- Temple Grandin, Philosophical Leader
- Tommy Orange, Author
- Lucy Sanders, CEO and Co-founder, NCWIT

“The computing discipline has widely been viewed as central to improving our lives. However, today, we are facing a health crisis that is severely affecting all of our friends and families, our communities, our places of work, and our way of life. And, computing is even more essential than it was before,” said NCWIT CEO and Co-founder Lucy Sanders. “Computing is connecting us socially, educating us, allowing us to buy online, and progressing breakthroughs on medical solutions. Clearly, it’s even more critical that computing products and services are created by a diverse group of people. The Conversations for Change series allows our change-leader network to come together and persist in adopting effective, research-based strategies that facilitate reform in computing classes and technical organizations.”

Additional headlining presenters include:

- Brenda J. Allen, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado
- Jannie Fernandez, Director K-12 Alliance and TECHNOLOchicas, NCWIT
- Colleen Lewis, McGregor-Girand Assistant Professor, Computer Science, Harvey Mudd College
- Paul L. Marciano, Author
- Kyla McMullen, Assistant Professor, Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering Department, University of Florida
- Eshika Saxena, Student, 2020 NCWIT Collegiate Award Winner, Harvard University
- Cheryl Swanier, PhD, Associate Professor, Computer Science, Claflin University

- Janine Vanderburg, Co-founder, Colorado Encore Network
- JeffriAnne Wilder, PhD, Senior Research Scientist, NCWIT
- Darryl Yong, Professor of Mathematics, Harvey Mudd College

View the full 2020 NCWIT Conversations for Change agenda (ncwit.org/ConversationsAgenda) for details. All events are free and open to the public. Those interested should join live, as many of these one-time sessions will not be recorded or available for viewing later.

NCWIT is incredibly grateful for 2020-21 NCWIT Summit Sponsors Anchor Point Foundation, Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Bloomberg, Facebook, PNC, and Walmart.

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The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is a non-profit community of more than 1,240 universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations nationwide working to increase the influential and meaningful participation of girls and women—at the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, age, sexual orientation, and disability status—in the field of computing, particularly in terms of innovation and development. NCWIT equips change leaders with resources for taking action in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women from K-12 and higher education through industry and entrepreneurial careers. Find out more at www.ncwit.org.

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2020 Pioneer in Tech Award Recipient Ruzena Bajcsy

Ruzena Bajcsy has spent much of her career at the intersection of human and machine ways of interpreting the world, with research interests that include Artificial Intelligence; Biosystems and Computational Biology; Control, Intelligent Systems, and Robotics; Human-Computer Interaction; and “Bridging Information Technology to Humanities and Social Sciences.”

In her first faculty position at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), Bajcsy was the only woman in the College of Engineering. She pioneered a new area of study within the field of robotics, Active Perception, in part as a way to prove herself in this environment. She was the first to argue that robots should be able to autonomously control the movements of their own sensors and other apparatus for interacting with their environment. In 1978, she founded the General Robotics, Automation, Sensing, and Perception (GRASP) Lab at UPenn, a center for interdisciplinary robotics research that would produce many cutting-edge developments in robotics and computer vision.

One of Bajcsy’s major contributions, the first 3D computer atlas of the human brain, came about because she happened to be in a meeting where doctors were looking at a patient’s brain scans and lamenting the difficulty of locating a tumor using the technology that was available at the time. After working on the problem for six months, Bajcsy and her team created a solution that revolutionized brain surgery, allowing much greater accuracy and saving millions of lives. Another of her

innovations, known as elastic matching, is a process in which computers match defined points in the human body with standardized medical images, enabling non-invasive diagnostics of the brain and other organs.

Bajcsy began her technical studies in Czechoslovakia, where she was born, receiving her Master's and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from Slovak Technical University in 1957 and 1967 before coming to the United States to pursue a second PhD in Computer Science at Stanford University. After 28 years at UPenn, she spent two years working for the National Science Foundation. She then joined the faculty of the University of California – Berkeley, where she is the Director Emeritus of the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Science (CITRIS). In a 2009 interview, Bajcsy noted, "My goal in my life has been to make technology useful. If we understand each other and respect each other, and this technology can help do that, then I think I have done my job."

Nearly 40 Members Honored for Technological Accomplishments and Change-leading Efforts for Women in Computing

NCWIT Awards celebrate outstanding

contributions and encourage persistence.

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is holding its annual "NCWIT Summit on Women and IT: Where Conversations Lead to Change" May 14-16, 2019, in Nashville, Tennessee. At this three-day event (ncwit.org/summit), more than 700 change leaders from the NCWIT community of educators, entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and social scientists convene to focus on improving inclusion and diversity in computing.

"Giving credit for change leaders' extraordinary accomplishments is important in marketing the need for women's invaluable technical contributions," said NCWIT CEO and Co-founder Lucy Sanders. "By utilizing the Summit stage, we're broadcasting their value and worth to a diverse community of influencers who work to make computing inclusive for all."

A summary of honorees is as follows, and full commendations are available in the printed program (PDF):

- The 2019 NCWIT Academic Alliance (AA) Seed Fund honorees are "Surging Enrollment" Recipients Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Georgia State University, Lord Fairfax Community College, Southern New Hampshire University, and the University of Michigan; "Microsoft Research Faculty Summit" Recipients Duke University and the University of Texas at Arlington; and "General" Recipients California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo, Central New Mexico Community College, Knox College, and Michigan State University. The AA Seed Fund, sponsored by Microsoft Research and other generous supporters, awards AA members with startup funds to develop and implement initiatives for recruiting or retaining women in computing.

- The 2019 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing (AiC) National Educator Award winner is Helena High School Computing Instructor Buffy Smith. The National Educator Award, sponsored by AT&T, honors educators who have demonstrated an exceptionally strong, consistent, and positive involvement in supporting female students in computer science. (aspirations.org/19NationalEdAward)

- The 2019 NCWIT Collegiate Award winners are Isabel Gallegos, Sharon Lin, Tayebeh Bareini, Annika Muehlbradt, Katherine Spoon, and Courtney Thurston; honorable mentions are Samsara Counts, Anna Dodson, Amel Hassan, Amber Johnson, Veenadhari Kollipara, Ashlie Martinez, Vilina Mehta, Taylor Miller-Ensminger, Samhita Pendyal, Swetha Prabakaran, Abby Stylianou, and Angelique Taylor. The Collegiate Award, sponsored by Qualcomm, with additional support from Palo Alto Networks, honors the outstanding computing accomplishments of undergraduate and graduate women. Conferred annually, the award recognizes technical contributions to projects that demonstrate a high level of innovation and potential impact. (aspirations.org/19CollegiateRecipients)

- The 2019 NCWIT Harrold and Notkin Research and Graduate Mentoring Award recipient is Dr. Richard Ladner. The Harrold and Notkin Award, sponsored by the NCWIT Board of Directors, is given in memory of Mary Jean Harrold and David Notkin, in honor of their outstanding research, graduate mentoring, and diversity contributions. (ncwit.org/19HarroldNotkin)

- The 2019 NCWIT Extension Services Transformation (NEXT) Award honorees are Grand Prize Recipient Colorado School of Mines and Second Place Recipient University of California, Berkeley, Department of Electrical Engineering

and Computer Sciences (CS), Letters & Science CS Major. The NCWIT NEXT Awards celebrate past and present NCWIT Extension Services clients for excellence in recruiting and retaining women in computing education. The awards reflect and reward practices that NCWIT recognizes as having the most significant impact on the long-term goal of increasing the number of women in information technology and other computing-related fields. Departments receiving a NEXT Award show significant positive outcomes in women's enrollment and graduation rates, and have excellent potential for building on these gains. (ncwit.org/2019NEXTrecipients)

- The 2019 NCWIT Pioneer in Tech Award recipient is Lynn Conway. Pioneer in Tech Award recipients are role models whose legacies continue to inspire generations of young women to pursue computing and make history in their own right. (ncwit.org/pioneeraward)

- The 2019 NCWIT Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award recipients are Dr. Anna Ritz, Dr. Tzu-Yi Chen, Dr. Natalia Villanueva Rosales, and Dr. Katie Siek. This award, sponsored by AT&T, recognizes faculty for their outstanding mentorship, high-quality research opportunities, recruitment of women and minority students, and efforts to encourage and advance undergraduates in computing-related fields. (ncwit.org/19URMawardRecipients)

View the full 2019 Summit agenda (ncwit.org/summit/agenda) for more event highlights.

About the NCWIT Summit

The NCWIT Summit is the world's largest annual convening of change leaders focused on significantly improving diversity and

inclusion in computing. Educators, entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and social scientists (both men and women) from across industries and disciplines participate in this one-of-a-kind opportunity.

We are especially appreciative of our 2019 NCWIT Summit Community Reception Sponsor Amazon. We would like to give a huge thanks to our 2019 NCWIT Summit Media Partner Facebook. We are also incredibly grateful for 2019 NCWIT Summit Sponsors Anchor Point Foundation, Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Chevron, FedEx, PNC, and Royal Bank of Canada Capital Markets.

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is a non-profit community of more than 1,100 universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations nationwide working to increase girls' and women's meaningful participation in computing. NCWIT equips change leaders with resources for taking action in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women from K-12 and higher education through industry and entrepreneurial careers. Find out more at http://www.ncwit.org.

2019 Pioneer in Tech Award Recipient Lynn Conway

Lynn Conway began her computing career at IBM research after completing her graduate studies at Columbia, joining the IBM Advanced Computing Systems project just as it was forming in 1965. There, she invented a hardware subsystem called multiple-issue dynamic instruction scheduling (DIS) that greatly enhanced the processing power of the IBM computers of the time.

Gradually, the implications of Conway's invention became more widely understood, and its impact spread until it came to be used in the majority of PC chips.

However, Conway herself received no credit for this discovery for decades, because she was fired from her position at IBM when she underwent sex reassignment surgery and began living as the woman she had always understood herself to be. Fearing a repeat of her experience at IBM, she kept her past achievements quiet so that employers would not associate her with her previous name, and she started her career from scratch.

She soon distinguished herself as a programmer and was recruited to the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) in 1973. There, in collaboration with Carver Mead, she created the VLSI systems that allowed the development of much more complex and powerful microprocessors. Their book, Introduction to VLSI Systems, became the basis for classes at more than 100 universities. Conway herself taught this approach at MIT, later going on to join the University of Michigan as Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Associate Dean of Engineering. She went on to make many more significant contributions that shaped the direction and capabilities of modern computing technology.

In the late 1990s, research by computing historians emerged that linked Conway to the DIS project. She decided that it was time for her to let her true self be known, and started a website that quickly grew into a huge repository of information, resources, and support for transgender people, as well as stories from her own life, all presented in her characteristically engaging and authentic narrative style. Now a University of Michigan Professor Emerita, she remains active as an advocate for transgender people, and has been honored for this work by President Obama.

Now Streaming: 2018 NCWIT Summit on Women and IT

“Our community of change leaders is fueled by their adoption of effective, research-based strategies that facilitate reform in computing classes and technical organizations,” said NCWIT CEO and Co-founder Lucy Sanders. “When our expansive network comes together each year at the NCWIT Summit, they do more than talk about the problems. They form partnerships and encourage each other to persist towards sustainable results.”

Read the full press release.

2018 Pioneer in Tech Award Recipients Lorinda Cherry and Evi Nemeth

After her graduation in 1969, **Lorinda Cherry** worked for a few years as a Fortran programmer, but she found it “very boring” to constantly write programs based on someone else’s ideas. She yearned to work on systems, and she eventually found a home at Bell Labs, where she worked on the nascent Unix operating system.

Lorinda thrived in this collaborative and creative environment, which encouraged programmers to imagine and execute projects that interested them. She worked on several influential mathematical tools, including a desk-calculator language (bc); TeX and eqn, both typesetting systems for publishing mathematical formulae; and a method of data compression based on trigram statistics. One of the first spell-check programs, typo, evolved from her statistics work. She went on to help develop the editing program Writer’s Workbench. Lorinda received her master’s degree in computer science from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Evi Nemeth is admired worldwide as the lead author of the handbooks known as the "bibles" of system administration: Unix Systems Administration Handbook (1989, 1995, 2000) and LINUX Administration Handbook (2001, 2007). Her popular class on "Hot Topics in System Administration" was a fixture at the annual Usenix LISA conference. Sometimes called the "godmother of system administration," Evi was a mentor to many middle school, high school, and undergraduate students.

Evi earned her PhD in Mathematics from the University of Waterloo, Ontario, in 1971 and taught in the Computer Science department at the University of Colorado – Boulder from 1980 to 2001. She also collaborated extensively with the Center for Applied Internet Data Analysis (CAIDA) at the University of California – San Diego, beginning with a guest faculty position in 1998. After retirement, Evi spent much of her time sailing. She was lost at sea in June 2013.