



WOMEN IN TECH

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2024
8TH ANNUAL

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

PRESENTED BY



TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

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2024
8TH ANNUAL

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

5:30PM

Registration, Networking, Food
and Beverage

6:30PM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

7:00PM

WIT Awards Program Part 1

3 Awards and 2 Scholarships

7:20PM

Networking / Food and Beverage

7:40PM

WIT Awards Program Part 2

4 Awards and 1 Scholarship

8:00PM

Networking / Food and Beverage

8:30PM

Event Ends

*All times are approximates with the exception of
start and end times.*

ABOUT THE



TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

The Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania (TCCP) connects technologists from diverse industries, backgrounds, and experiences with opportunities to learn, collaborate and innovate while also raising the profile of the technology community throughout the Central Pennsylvania region and beyond. More information about the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania can be found at www.tccp.org.

**TCCP CONGRATULATES THE 2024
WOMEN IN TECH AWARD FINALISTS,
WINNERS AND SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS!**

WWW.TCCP.ORG

CELEBRATING WOMEN *in Tech*

**BEN FRANKLIN TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS
OF CENTRAL & NORTHERN PA
CONGRATULATES THE 2024 WOMEN IN
TECH NOMINEES & AWARD WINNERS!**

Meet Christina Milano-Damaskos,
co-founder and CEO of *Athlon* and
a 2024 Women in Tech Awards
Finalists.

Ben Franklin has supported
Christina's entrepreneurial journey
with business guidance, valuable
connections, and funding.

athlon

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**WOMEN
IN TECH**



ABOUT TCCP'S WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

2024 marks the 8th anniversary of the Women in Technology Awards and the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania's continued commitment to celebrating women who are innovators, role models, trailblazers, and inspirations within the technology community throughout our region. In addition to the Women In Technology Awards, TCCP offers a variety of Women In Technology (WIT) activities as part of its broader WIT initiative that strives to create an inclusive and level playing field regardless of gender within the technology industry. More information about TCCP's Women In Technology initiative can be found at [**www.tccp.org/wit**](http://www.tccp.org/wit).

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S WOMEN IN TECH SUBCOMMITTEE

WOMEN IN TECH SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

Sue Engels, Capital Blue Cross

WOMEN IN TECH SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Amy Foy, JMA Resources

Anita McAllister, Members 1st Federal Credit Union

Beth Montgomery, Project?Done!

Carol Connor, Capital Blue Cross

Esther Angell, Cargas Systems

Jessica Warren, Harrisburg University

Jessie Eichelberger, Members 1st Federal Credit Union

Jill Yocum, Capital Blue Cross

Kathryn Hartzell, PA Turnpike Commission

Kristin DiMatteo, LMI

Lori Long, Capital Blue Cross

Lori Montgomery, Select Medical

Lynzie Wagaman, Harrisburg University

Maria Hoffmaster, Happy Money

Pamela Morrissey, Cargas Systems

Rachel Alden, Sheetz

Rena Rhinehart-Fowler, Veradigm

Samantha Kinsely, enGen / Tailor Made Solutions

Srinija Amisthapur, Marsh McLennan

Susan Lehr, Ollies

Zineb Elketanni, TEKsystems

THANK YOU

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2024 EVENT EMCEE



ALICIA RICHARDS

ABC27 News Anchor / Reporter

Alicia Richards co-anchors ABC27's 5:00, 6:00 & 11:00 p.m. newscasts. She also does special reporting throughout the year. Most recently, Alicia was focused on the opioid crisis, winning a Keystone Media Award for her coverage.

When Alicia turned her attention to domestic violence, she won an Emmy award after revealing that Pennsylvania does not track how judges rule in these cases. She was also the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters television broadcaster of the year in 2020.

Alicia interviewed the first female CEO of The Hershey Company, Michele Buck. Alicia traveled to Kosovo to report on the Pennsylvania National Guard's peacekeeping efforts. She accompanied heart specialists from Penn State Hershey Medical Center on a life-saving medical mission to Ecuador. She covered the 2016 Democratic National Convention and the 2000 Republican National Convention – both in Philadelphia. She interviewed Hillary Clinton in Harrisburg and was there as Central Pennsylvanians poured into Washington for the Ronald Reagan Memorial.

Alicia spent a decade advocating for breast cancer awareness. Her Buddy Check 27 series won two Pennsylvania Association of Broadcaster awards and she and her mother Karen appeared in public service announcements promoting the importance of early detection. In addition, Alicia was awarded a first-place Associated Press award for "Lori's Story," a moving 10-part series on a local woman's determined battle against breast cancer.

Alicia takes great pride in her extensive involvement with the Central Pennsylvania community through regular speaking engagements.

Travel is one of her primary interests. With her family, she has gone on safari in Africa and has been to Egypt, Russia, Argentina and throughout Europe. Alicia and her partner of 25 years, Elise, have a Goldendoodle named Moxie.



2024 EVENT KEYNOTE



MARY OLIVEIRA

President and CEO

**Whitaker Center for Science
and the Arts**

Mary Oliveira is a visionary leader currently serving as the President and CEO of Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, a vibrant and innovative non-profit center for the arts, education, entertainment, and cultural enrichment in Central PA. For 25 years, Whitaker Center has been dedicated to inspiring curiosity, exploration, and lifelong learning through science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) experiences for all its guests.

Her responsibilities for the organization include strategic planning, financial stewardship, and community engagement. She also plays a pivotal role in guiding the institution's mission and vision to expand access to STEAM programming in the greater Central Pennsylvania area, especially to underserved populations.

Mary's career is marked by impressive achievements that reach across Pennsylvania. From her time at the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry as vice president of member growth and strategy/chief membership officer to her role as senior manager of business development at PSECU and her most recent position as chief operating officer of Color & Culture, a Harrisburg-based marketing agency, Mary has consistently demonstrated a commitment to transformation and excellence. She brings a fresh perspective and passion for community and leadership, including her volunteer work with organizations including Capital Area Girls on the Run and Rotary Club of Harrisburg, among others. She was also recently appointed to Gov. Josh Shapiro's Advisory Commission for Women and to the Women's Leadership Network Advisory Council for United Way of the Capital Region.

Central Penn Business Journal recently named her as one of the region's power players in this year's Central Penn Business Journal Power 100.

2024
8TH ANNUAL **WOMEN IN
TECHNOLOGY
AWARDS**



WOMEN IN TECH

**2024
AWARD
FINALISTS**



IMPACT AWARD

PRIVATE SECTOR / MEDIUM TO LARGE BUSINESS

W 2024 FINALIST

This award recognizes a woman in technology whose contributions have made a positive impact in the Private Sector / Medium to Large Business market (companies employing 50 or more employees).



CARRIE ANN KNIGHT

Technology Director
NTM Engineering, Inc.

Carrie is a tech enthusiast and problem solver with more than 20 years' experience supporting tech clients in Central Pennsylvania. For the last six years, Carrie has been the Technology Director at NTM Engineering, a consulting firm headquartered in Dillsburg, PA, where she manages everything from IT strategy to cybersecurity and HIPAA compliance. Her role involves managing IT infrastructure, analyzing departmental needs, and overseeing IT procurement. It's a dynamic position that allows her to integrate technology solutions across the company.

Carrie's career began at another engineering firm, Gannett Fleming, where she started as a technical writer after graduating from Penn State. She soon moved into desktop publishing, graphics, and PowerPoint presentations. She designed some of Gannett Fleming's earliest websites and was promoted to Web and Multimedia Manager, serving as the corporate webmaster for all corporate websites, client projects, and the company intranet. This role was pivotal in developing her expertise in web design and project management.

Before joining NTM, Carrie founded and ran a tech company called Blue Pixels Media, LLC for over a decade. Her company offered comprehensive web consulting services, including web design, WordPress websites, website maintenance, member management system implementation, database development, logo design, and desktop publishing. It was a rewarding experience that allowed her to hone her skills in developing internet-specific content and managing web projects from start to finish.

Outside of work, Carrie is the proud mom of a college freshman and a high schooler and is passionate about community causes and women's rights.



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TINA M TENNANT

Senior Technical Business Consultant
Capital Blue Cross

With 30 years of experience in the healthcare insurance industry, Tina has dedicated her career to helping clients navigate complex challenges and find solutions that instill confidence in our company. Tina's greatest moments of joy come from seeing the trust and satisfaction in the clients' eyes.

Mentoring co-workers has been a rewarding aspect of Tina's journey. Watching them grow and speak with confidence is a testament to the supportive environment we foster.

Tina co-chairs two groups within her company that span over 20+ states, focusing on delivering technology that better serves clients and enhances the company's efficiency. This role allows Tina to blend her passion for innovation with her commitment to exceptional client service.

Tina is also deeply passionate about community service. As a proud contributor in the Women for Democracy and human rights, Tina actively participates in initiatives that promote equality for all. Tina's mission is to ensure that every child knows their worth and feels empowered, to reach for the stars and never let go. Tina will continue this work until that vision becomes a reality.



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WENDY TYLER

IT&D Infrastructure Manager of
Information Systems & Operations
Capital Blue Cross

Wendy Tyler resides in a small antique town called New Oxford, PA with her husband and two teenage sons. Wendy enjoys spending time outdoors gardening with various plants & flowers, swimming and taking walks with her two beagles. Wendy lives just outside the Gettysburg battlefield area where she enjoys walking around as a family to visit the various historic sights, gift shops and restaurants.

Wendy is a graduate of New Oxford High School and earned a Business Administration degree from Harrisburg Area Community College. Wendy began her career in the IT industry as a communications engineer after schooling where she supported key technical roles that allowed her to learn and participate in exciting projects related to technology builds, enhancements to support customer experience, collaboration, and maintaining operational performance for employees and members.

Wendy has been with Capital 17 years and had managed different departments where she has served in various leadership roles supporting Telecommunications & Call Center Operations, Data Network Infrastructure and Claims Scheduling & Processing. In addition to the technical aspects, Wendy enjoys being a part of each staff members success as she can interject her strong people skills through the management side of her career to promote growth with staff as well as building strong working relationships both internally and externally with vendors.

Wendy is eager for what the future holds both personally and professionally as she takes each day as an opportunity to be the best person she can be to those around her and those that look to her for guidance as she has had positive role models throughout her life and career that have led to the successes she had achieved. In close, Wendy includes her favorite quote that is meaningful to her in how she aims to excel at what she does, use new opportunities to learn and grow to be the best person she can be each day; ***“Excellence is the difference between what I do and what I am capable of.”***

Breaking barriers and inspiring innovation

We're honored to support the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania and celebrate the women trailblazers in tech.

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IMPACT AWARD

PRIVATE SECTOR / ENTREPRENEUR TO SMALL BUSINESS

W 2024 FINALIST

This award recognizes a woman in technology whose contributions have had a positive impact in the Entrepreneurial / Small Business sector (companies employing less than 50 employees).



ALYSON BOEHR

Formulation Associate
Phospholutions, Inc.

Alyson Boehr is a versatile Analytical Chemist with over 27 years of experience. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Lethbridge in Canada. Her love of analytical chemistry was ignited while doing undergraduate research under Professor Andrew Hakin which led to her first publication. Her career has taken her across North America working both in Canada and the United States before settling down in Pennsylvania. She has made important contributions in several different chemical industries ranging from Oil and Gas, Pharmaceutical manufacturing and testing, and Biochemical research at The Pennsylvania State University. She is currently formulating Fertilizers for the Agricultural sector at Phospholutions Inc.

Her unique experiences have allowed her to thrive in an environment where she was again required to become educated in an entirely new industry. She rapidly adapted to formulation science developing new product lines through formulation innovation, learned scale-up manufacturing principles, networked with external partners/contractors, designed procedures to ensure product quality, acquired and set up the necessary equipment for an entire Quality Control laboratory from scratch and pushed forward intellectual property protection with a patent application. Her laboratory has now approved product quality on nearly 10,000 tons of product, and sales are topping \$1M in revenue. Her work is rapidly being recognized at a national and international level by various professional organizations.

She is not just a well versed scientist, but a wife, and a mother of two. She spends her free time growing vegetables and kickboxing.



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REESY NEFF

CEO/Founder

**Omega Data Security d/b/a Omega Eycles
LLC**

Reesy is originally from Eastern North Carolina. She currently lives in York, PA with her best friend and husband Brent. She has four children (technically they are stepchildren, however, she doesn't use that word), two beautiful grandchildren with one on the way. Prior to Reesy owning her business, she was a regional manager for a mid-size bank. After experiencing many mergers along with her husband's encouragement, Reesy left banking.

In 2020, Reesy started Omega Data Security, an onsite data destruction company. With Covid and changes in the data destruction industry, Reesy had to pivot and change her business model. In April of 2021 Omega Data Security d/b/a Omega Eycles was born with a mission to help make the world a greener and more secure place by partnering with other businesses in recycling their end-of-life IT equipment, appropriately destroying confidential information and doing her part in keeping e-waste out of landfills. This business model is a completely free model.

Reesy is also a published author. She published her first book in 2021, *Stripping Off the Labels*, a memoir of her life growing up in North Carolina. While her book is technically a memoir, it's really about not allowing the world to define you or others tell you what you can or cannot do.

Reesy loves to travel, the beach, reading, writing, line dancing, motivational speaking and most of all spending time with her family. Reesy is a consummate cheerleader to her family, friends and things she is passionate about.



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TERRI BLACK-BENDL

VP, Sales & Marketing

Appalachia Technologies

Terri is the Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Appalachia Technologies – a leading cybersecurity and managed service provider based in Mechanicsburg PA.

Helping educate others has always been a cornerstone of her approach and success, starting in the early 90's when Terri began sharing her knowledge by training local teachers on the basics of Microsoft Office and the Internet. Terri formally began her tech career in 1995 at the Harrisburg TRANE office where she was the first and only female LAN Admin in the national organization's history to take maternity leave... paving the way for others moving forward.

After 15 years "in" IT, Terri moved into IT Sales in 2011, followed by a rapidly growing startup, where she was the first full-time employee for this Technology Consulting company.

Since 2016, Terri has been a driving force at Appalachia Technologies. Her diverse experience culminated in her 2022 promotion to VP of Sales & Marketing where she leads strategic sales and marketing initiatives, leveraging both her technical expertise and business acumen.

Beyond Appalachia, Terri's commitment to knowledge sharing continues through mentorship, social media, webinars, and community events – with a focus on translating complex cybersecurity concepts into actionable business terms. Looking ahead, Terri is actively seeking to expand her influence within the community and professional circles, driven by her unwavering commitment to empowering others.

Susan Graham Consulting proudly sponsors the TCCP Women in Tech Awards. As a 100% women-owned IT consulting firm, we're dedicated to empowering women in technology.



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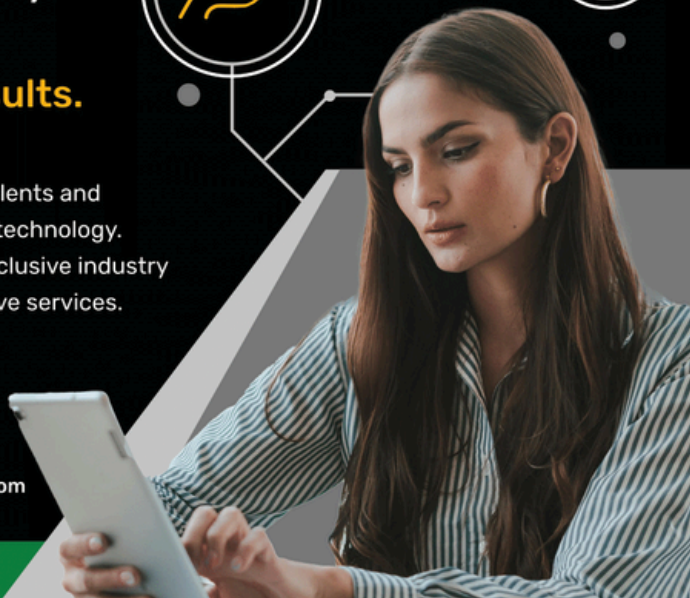
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IMPACT AWARD PUBLIC SECTOR / GOVERNMENT

W 2024 FINALIST

This award recognizes a woman in technology whose contributions have had an impact in the Public Sector / Government.



CHRISTINA ANN FISHER

Subject Matter Expert (SME),
Mobile Product Delivery Development

**Commonwealth of PA, PennDOT (Susan
Graham Consultant, LLC – Subcontractor)**

Christina Fisher was born and raised in the small town of Hopewell, PA. She is a high school graduate of Northern Bedford County High School and a college graduate of California University of PA. Christina received her Computer Science & Technology Associates degree and then furthered her college education at Penn State for Business Administration while working at JLG Industries.

As a goal-oriented, leader, Christina is passionate about guiding and equipping her teams toward excellence. While working as a consultant for companies such as KPMG Consulting, Deloitte, and Highmark, her accomplishments included in-house website design, SAP Implementation across the Commonwealth of PA, system rewrites, and most currently, starting an in-house Mobile Product Delivery team for the Commonwealth of PA.

Working as a subcontractor for Susan Graham Consultant, Christina is currently an IT Consultant Subject Matter Expert specializing in Apple (iOS) Product Delivery Development for the Commonwealth of PA. Her accolades include the Government Technology Outstanding Leadership and Innovation Award; the Mobile Application National Association of State Chief Information Officers Award; and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators International Award.

Christina currently lives in Manheim, PA, with her husband, Eric, and children, Katelyn and Landon. She enjoys quality family time and being active in a variety of school, church, and community activities.



IMPACT AWARD PUBLIC SECTOR / GOVERNMENT

W 2024 FINALIST

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JENNIFER LEINBACH

Executive Director

**Ben Franklin Technology Development
Authority and Office of Technology Investment**

As the Executive Director of the Technology Investment Office at the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), Jennifer Leinbach oversees a variety of statewide technology-based economic development programs that include the Ben Franklin Technology Partners, Life Science Greenhouses, PA Infrastructure Technology Alliance, Manufacturing Innovation, Super Computing, Powdered Metals, Invent Penn State, and most recently the PA State Small Business Credit Initiative Equity Investments.

She serves as the Executive Director of the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA), one of the largest and most widely recognized technology-based economic development programs in the country. The mission of the BFTDA is to strategically support programs and investments which create a continuum of financial and technical services to advance the creation, growth, success, and global competitiveness of Pennsylvania's companies and universities.

Prior to joining DCED in 2012, Jennifer worked for the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry serving in a variety of roles that included leading workforce development initiatives, chairing the technology committee, and assisting early-stage technology startups with resources to accelerate growth as the Greater Reading Keystone Innovation Zone Coordinator. Jennifer is passionate about entrepreneurship and established the first business plan competition for students attending the five colleges and universities in Berks County. Jennifer and her husband Christian live near Hamburg, Pennsylvania in a log home lovingly built by friends and family.



IMPACT AWARD PUBLIC SECTOR / GOVERNMENT

W 2024 FINALIST

This award recognizes a woman in technology whose contributions have had an impact in the Public Sector / Government.



MELANIE DEMARIO

Lead Client Solutions Executive – Mobility
AT&T Public Sector FirstNet

Melanie DeMario stands as a paragon of innovation and leadership in the realm of technology and public safety communications, particularly through her pivotal role as Lead Government Account Manager for the Public Sector and FirstNet initiatives with AT&T. With a career spanning over two decades, Melanie has not only demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence but has also profoundly influenced the landscape of government and public sector communications. Her journey, marked by a blend of strategic foresight, leadership, strong relationship building skills and a deep understanding of technology's role in public safety, has positioned her as a distinguished figure in her field.

Throughout her tenure at AT&T, Melanie has been responsible for managing a substantial portfolio of government account clients. Her management of the PA State Contract NASPO Participating Addendum, one of the largest of its kind in the U.S., showcases her capability to handle high-stake projects with strategic acumen. Melanie's leadership has been critical in maintaining customer satisfaction, driving profitable revenue growth, and ensuring the strategic positioning of AT&T's products and services nationwide.

In summary, Melanie DeMario's career is a beacon of leadership, innovation, and dedication. Her influence extends beyond her immediate professional circle, inspiring current and future generations in the realm of technology and public safety communications. Her legacy is marked by her tireless commitment to advancing technology's role in enhancing public safety and her strategic vision that has driven substantial growth and success in her endeavors.



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W 2024 FINALIST

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD

This award recognizes a woman's active commitment to inclusion and diversity in technology.



JAKYRA SIMPSON

CEO/Founder

STEAM Sneakerheadz

STEAM Sneakerheadz, founded by Jakyra Simpson (aka Ky the Chemist), is an innovative educational initiative based in York, PA. The organization aims to inspire young people to explore careers in Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEAM) through culturally relevant and hands-on experiential learning activities that incorporate elements of hip-hop and sneaker culture. By engaging students from underrepresented and underserved communities, STEAM Sneakerheadz seeks to bridge the educational gap and encourage early exposure to STEAM fields. Jakyra Simpson aka Ky the Chemist is a science communicator, educator, and artist who graduated with her Bachelor of Chemistry/Pre-Pharmacy with minors in Mathematics and Biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in 2018. She graduated with her Master's in Chemistry from Indiana University and during her time there, trailblazed a new way to teach chemistry using hip-hop and sneaker culture. She most recently was featured as a TEDx speaker with her talk "Teaching culturally relevant chemistry with sneakers" at Morehouse College.



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KRISTIN LOVETT

Senior Program Manager

**Penn Medicine – Data Analytics, University of
Pennsylvania Hospital System**

Kristin Lovett is an innovative leader experienced in fostering collaborative spaces that create inclusive products and experiences. Kristin brings 14 years of experience in information technology, operations, and communications. Currently, she is the Senior Program Manager in Data Analytics at Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Hospital System. Prior to Penn Medicine, she worked at TE Connectivity, Geisinger Health and WellSpan Health. Kristin holds a M.A. in Strategic Communications from Duquesne University and certifications in product management and agile scrum. She is a lifelong learner and advocate for building equitable pathways and opportunities for students and talent of color interested in pursuing a STEM-centric careers and currently serves on the Harrisburg University 2024 Industry Advisory Board (IAB) for the Master's in Project Management.



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LILY MENG

CEO
CoCarting

Lily Meng is the visionary founder and CEO of CoCarting, a platform designed to revolutionize online shopping by fostering connection and community. With over a decade of experience in graphic design, sales, and customer service, Lily brings a wealth of expertise to her role as a tech entrepreneur.

Coming to the US in 2009, Lily overcame language barriers starting with English as a Second Language programs. She earned her GED, an A.A. from HACC, and a B.S. in Business Management from Penn State University, eventually gaining U.S. citizenship. Her career includes notable positions at Bon-Ton and Zales Jewelers, where she distinguished herself as a top-performing sales leader.

Lily's inspiration for CoCarting came from personal experiences while shopping for her newborn niece with her sister-in-law. There was confusion from sharing endless product links and miscommunications when jumping between the various chatting apps. The current online shopping landscape contributes annually to \$743 billion in returns and 9.5 billion pounds of waste in our landfills. Lily decided to challenge the status quo of the solo online shopping experience. CoCarting is a unique platform, all in one, where users can chat, vote, and engage with friends and family while shopping together.

By overcoming challenges, Lily has developed strong leadership skills. She empowers and mentors many women by sharing her insights to help others, Lily aims to make a significant impact. Through CoCarting, she is helping to bridge gaps, strengthen relationships, and create a more sustainable shopping experience.

CONGRATS



ABBY WURZBACH

Congratulations for being a Next Gen Award finalist. We're proud of you!

MANTEC >>

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Scholarship Recipients!

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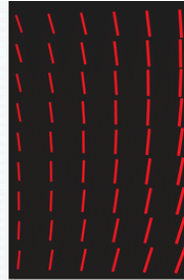
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CROWDSTRIKE



MOXIE AWARD

W 2024 FINALIST

This award recognizes a pioneer who has blazed the trail for other women in technology to follow.



PAMELA MORRISSEY

Director of Energy Support
Cargas Systems

As an operations leader with over 20 years' experience, Pamela currently serves as the Director of Energy Support at Cargas Systems in Lancaster, PA. Since joining Cargas Systems, Pamela has driven significant transformations starting with the Support team of Technical Engineers and Customer Support Consultants. This transformation was achieved despite Pamela's non-engineering background, challenging the outdated notion that leading technical talent requires a technical background oneself.

Pamela's expertise in CX and strategy have been instrumental, but her love for those under her leadership drives all she does. A recent proud moment and key achievement was the expansion of Cargas Systems internship program. This initiative has already yielded positive results, exemplified by the hiring of a TCCP scholarship award winner. This success story not only highlights Pamela's commitment to nurturing talent but also demonstrates how diverse leadership perspectives can drive innovation and growth in technical fields.

Pamela is a mother of 3 as well as a very lazy Shit-Zu, an Army wife, and kidney donor. Pamela loves volunteering with Junior Achievement and Girls on the Run, while mentoring young professionals through the Lancaster Chamber and initiating a mentorship program with Women in Energy.

Pamela holds a master's from Duquesne and certifications in Lean Six Sigma and Project Management from Villanova. Her empathy and communication skills are crucial in building strong relationships. Pamela believes a thriving internal culture is key to customer satisfaction, following the mantra: "If you start by taking care of each other, taking care of customers will be that much more rewarding."



MOXIE AWARD

W 2024 FINALIST

This award recognizes a pioneer who has blazed the trail for other women in technology to follow.



SHARAREH (SHERRI) KERMANSHACHI

Vice Chancellor for Research and Professor of
Civil Engineering

Penn State Harrisburg

Dr. Sharareh (Sherri) Kermanshachi is Vice Chancellor for Research and Outreach, and Professor of Civil Engineering at Penn State Harrisburg. In these roles, she oversees several units including the office of research and outreach, research institutes/centers, continuing education, and center for innovation and entrepreneurship. Prior to joining Penn State, Dr. Kermanshachi served as the Director of Research Initiatives, Technology Transfer Director of the Center for Transportation, Equity, Decisions and Dollars, Director of the Resilient Infrastructures and Sustainable Environment (RISE) Lab, and Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. She received her Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University. She also holds a master's degree in Civil Engineering, a master's degree in Business Administration (MBA), and bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering. Dr. Kermanshachi has published more than 350 books, scholarly articles, conference proceedings, and research reports and has conducted several national- and state-level research projects. Dr. Kermanshachi is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and Institution of Civil Engineers. Dr. Kermanshachi has received 55 prestigious international, national and regional awards including the 2024 100 Women to Know in US and 2024 Women of Influence. Dr. Kermanshachi serves as an active technical member of 12 committees and Editor/Editorial Board Member of the five journals. She also served as the Board Member of the Construction Management Association of America. Dr. Kermanshachi has established four student chapters and served as the faculty advisor for these chapters.



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STEPHANIE BLANDA

Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences
Lebanon Valley College

Dr. Stephanie Blanda is an Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences at Lebanon Valley College, focusing on computer and data science. She teaches a variety of courses, including Deep Learning, Cryptography, Statistics & Data Analysis, and Software Architecture.

Dr. Blanda developed and runs a Computer and Data Science summer camp at LVC, which welcomed its first cohort to campus in July 2024. The camp is a week-long intensive program for rising high school juniors and seniors designed to help them decide if they are interested in computer programming and/or data science careers. The camp culminates with the students working in teams to develop classification models for real-world data, which they present to their peers on the last day of camp.

As part of the Mathematics Association of America, Dr. Blanda is a Project NEXT (New Experiences in Teaching) Fellow, Peach'18 cohort. More locally, she served as the co-chair for Section NEXT in the EPaDel region (Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware) from 2021-2023. She and her co-chair created professional development programming for early career mathematical sciences professors as part of the EPaDel section meetings.

For the past three years, Dr. Blanda has participated as a speaker at the Women in Mathematics, Science & Technology Conference, held at Millersville University, sharing her experiences as a woman in the fields of computer science and mathematics.

Dr. Blanda earned her Ph.D. in mathematics with a minor in computational science from Penn State University, and her bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics from Lebanon Valley College.



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NEXT GEN AWARD

W 2024 FINALIST

This award recognizes an up-and-coming young woman who is making a difference in technology in our region.



ABBY WURZBACH

Business Solutions Specialist

MANTEC

Abby has always been a people person who enjoys bringing groups together, coordinating engaging events, and connecting people to the right resources that help them grow. Since joining the team at MANTEC, a non-profit organization serving small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies in South Central PA, she's had countless opportunities to use those skills and passions to help manufacturers and their people achieve excellence.

A few months into her time at MANTEC, Abby discovered a need amongst manufacturing companies and founded the Young Manufacturers Network in February of 2024, a group dedicated to upskilling and retaining young talent in the manufacturing industry. As President of YMN, Abby oversees a team of eight Advisory Board members who help create events, content, and other opportunities to develop, mentor, and support the next generation of manufacturing.

When she's not spending time listening to manufacturers and helping them grow, you can find Abby leading the LCBC York Young Adult group, farming on her family's Scottish Highland Cattle farm, and spending time being active in nature by kayaking, hiking, and rock climbing.



NEXT GEN AWARD

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CHRISTINA MILANO-DAMASKOS

Co-Founder & CEO

Athlon, Inc.

Christina is the co-founder & CEO of a youth wellness technology company, Athlon. She is dedicated to ensuring the next generation builds healthy and happy lifestyles while having fun. After over a decade in sports, media and entertainment, Christina embarked on her greatest career calling with her husband and co-founder, Matt, to solve the youth physical and mental health crisis through tech and education. Athlon's first K-8th grade mobile app, Rallee, is the next movement in learning, building up students' physical and mental health skills that help them learn, reset and live better lives in and beyond the classroom.

Prior to Athlon, Christina worked at leading sports and entertainment companies as a senior sales and marketing partnership director, including at Excel Sports Management, a full-service sports and entertainment agency that represents elite teams and athletes, and the Madison Square Garden Company.

Christina graduated from Cornell University with a business degree from the School of Hotel Administration. She lives in Mechanicsburg, PA and loves spending weekends with her husband playing tennis and hiking with their dog, Sterling.



NEXT GEN AWARD

W 2024 FINALIST

This award recognizes an up-and-coming young woman who is making a difference in technology in our region.



JANELLE MAURER

Senior Cyber Security Specialist
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

Janelle is a cybersecurity professional with a bachelor's degree in Cyber Security from Central Penn College, and was recently promoted to Senior Cyber Security Specialist at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC). Janelle's work has earned her notable recognitions, including the 2023 and 2024 Knowbe4 Sharky Awards for Best Phishing Campaign and Best User Story. Janelle has also significantly contributed to the PTC IBTTA Committee's Toll Excellence awards submission for IT recruitment efforts.

Janelle is dedicated to fostering talent and innovation, having designed and managed the IT department's rotational program for new IT Analysts and coordinated the IT Summer Intern program for three consecutive years. As a mentor, Janelle has been a pivotal figure on the PTC IT Recruitment Team, guiding new recruits and building a supportive environment. Janelle's leadership extends to coaching during PTC Innovation Week and spearheading National Cyber Security Awareness Month initiatives, enhancing the organization's security posture.

Janelle's diverse skill set includes Cyber Security Awareness, Phishing Templates and Campaigns, Network Security, Leadership, Customer Service, and Cyber Security Troubleshooting. Janelle is passionate about coaching, dedicating her time outside of work to her step-daughter's softball team, demonstrating her commitment to mentorship and community involvement.

Looking ahead, Janelle aims to further advance her career in cybersecurity, focusing on enhancing security awareness programs and security culture. Janelle's extensive experience, leadership, and ongoing dedication to professional and personal development make her a distinguished nominee for this award, exemplifying her as a role model in the cybersecurity field.

ITERO GROUP

CONGRATULATIONS TO TONIGHT'S WINNERS AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

As a tech-focused, women-owned small business, Itero Group is proud to sponsor the 8th Annual Women in Technology Awards.



Erin McKenzie-Brahms
CEO



Terri Bailoni
President

www.IteroGroup.com



WOMEN IN TECH ALLY AWARD

W 2024 FINALIST

This award recognizes an individual, organization or business for their outstanding achievements or contributions as an Ally to women in tech.



DR. ANNA CK ERB

Director of Communications

Advanced Metrics

Anna CK Erb, DSW, LCSW is a clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience and holds a Doctorate in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. At Advanced Metrics, she uses her extensive knowledge to develop innovative software solutions. Her commitment to mental health parity and equal access to treatment for underserved populations is backed by her experience in direct support, clinical practice, field supervision, and software development. Anna's experience from Product Owner to Director of Communications fuels her passion for leveraging her clinical background to develop systems focused on end-user needs. Anna leads the JEDI committee, building strong relationships with stakeholders and working with community partners to create culturally competent data collection and reporting systems for Community Health Workers, Home Visitors, and Mental and Behavioral Health Care Providers working in the Central PA area and across the nation. With over six years in the tech industry, Anna has been inspired by the incredible achievements of women in tech and is proud to support, advocate for, and ally with them.

In her free time, Anna enjoys hiking, live music, yoga, canoe camping, and traveling in a vintage Airstream with her husband, Brent, and their English Shepherd, Olson. She hopes that her commitment to supporting women in technology and her passion for innovative solutions contribute to a more inclusive and dynamic industry.



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DEEPA MOORTHY

Senior Salesforce Admin
Warrior Tech Solutions

Deepa loves the famous quote, “A ship in a harbor is safe. But that is not what ships are built for.” In Deepa’s point of view every woman is the ship. We should not just stay in the harbor. Our life journey gives meaning to our life. No matter what happened in past, what we do in present and what we are going to do in our future is what matters! Deepa would love to share something about her life which is the proof of woman entrepreneur.

As an H4 single mom born in Madurai and raised at 14B/4 Lakshmiyapuram Street, Rajapalayam, Tamil Nadu, India, Deepa has faced numerous challenges and achieved significant milestones. Deepa completed her master’s in finance and Income Tax, becoming the first graduate in her family. After getting married, Deepa moved to the U.S. on an H4 visa, initially dependent on her husband for everything, including opening a bank account.

Starting with zero knowledge in IT and with English as her second language, it was incredibly challenging to upgrade her skills. However, through perseverance and determination, Deepa has transformed her life and become a role model for many women. Currently, Deepa works as a Senior Salesforce Admin at Top Golf, where she holds 6 Salesforce certifications and 2 Copado certifications.

Deepa is passionate about empowering women to enter the IT industry. Deepa trains women who want to transition into IT and volunteer at Siripigal Academy and Power Women and Technology Skill Up. Deepa’s journey from being dependent to becoming an independent and skilled professional is a testament to the power of resilience and continuous learning.

Deepa is grateful for her parents, Lakshmi and Moorthy, her daughter, Sharmila, Doing Bachelor of Economics at Emory University, her family members, friends and her best friend Deva Anbu, the Founder and Managing Director of Warrior Solution.



W 2024 FINALIST

WOMEN IN TECH ALLY AWARD

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MARK HOKE

Account Lead, PA Public Service

Accenture

Mark was born and raised in central PA. He went to college at Shippensburg University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer science. He started his career at a local IT consulting company as a jr. developer. Due to his collaborative style, he was quickly put in front of clients and became a development lead. One of his mentors noticed he did well in a team environment and recommended he shift his career to become a project manager. After making that shift, Mark spent the next 18 years in the project management/PMO lead role. Most of that time being with State Government, working for both the PA Office of Attorney General and then the PA Office of Administration. He recently made the transition back to IT consulting, where he is now an account leader for Accenture's PA Public Service practice.

Mark is married and has two kids. His daughter is 13 and his son is 10. He and his family have a dog and cat. He loves the outdoors and currently working on maintaining his garden. He is crafty and loves to learn new skills, and currently working on finishing his basement.

Mark is very passionate about public service, helping improve how services are provided to PA residents. He loves working with teams and mentoring future leaders!

2024
8TH ANNUAL **WOMEN IN
TECHNOLOGY
AWARDS**



WOMEN IN TECH

**2024
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS**



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

\$1000 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Our WIT Scholarships are awarded to encourage women to continue to excel in technology related disciplines such as computing, engineering, and life sciences. This year's Women In Tech Scholarships are sponsored by **Itero Group, LLC**.

AASTHA RIJAL '26

Franklin & Marshall College

Bachelor of Computer Science and
Bachelor of Data Science



Aastha Rijal, born and raised in Nepal, is set to graduate in 2026 from Franklin & Marshall College with Bachelor's degrees in Computer Science and Data Science. Despite discovering her passion for technology later than many peers, Aastha's deep interest in the field drives her to make significant contributions to the tech industry.

Post-graduation, she aims to leverage technology for global community benefit and address challenges faced by minorities and women in Nepal. Aastha plans to develop tech-driven solutions tailored to Nepal's needs, such as mobile applications and online platforms for healthcare in remote areas. She is also focused on using technology to make education accessible, creating digital resources and e-learning platforms to support students worldwide.

Her aspirations extend to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation in Nepal through mentorship programs and startup incubators. Dedicated to advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion in tech, Aastha strives to be a voice for underrepresented groups and promote a welcoming industry. As a mentor and role model, she aims to inspire others, particularly women and minorities, to pursue tech careers and overcome obstacles. Through education, entrepreneurship, and advocacy, Aastha envisions a brighter, more equitable future for everyone globally and for Nepal.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

\$1500 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

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DANIELLE STRAUSBURGER '25

Elizabethtown College

Bachelor of Computer Science



Danielle Strausburger, set to graduate in 2025 from Elizabethtown College with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, began her academic journey with uncertainty. Despite initial doubts, she quickly found her passion for technology, excelling in her studies and earning roles as a Teaching Assistant and tutor.

Facing gender-based skepticism from a few peers, Danielle was inspired to become a role model for other girls in STEM. Her determination led to leadership opportunities, including a significant project to develop a website for her college's food pantry. This experience reinforced her commitment to using her skills to benefit the community, aligning with Elizabethtown's motto, "Educate for Service."

Danielle actively participates in volunteer outreach, such as the "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" event and speaking at Open Houses. These activities solidified her desire to support and inspire the next generation of female engineers. She also volunteers with a local group supporting senior citizens, providing technical assistance to help them stay active and connected.

Post-graduation, Danielle aims to continue her outreach efforts for girls interested in STEM, break down gender expectations, and undertake community-based coding projects. She is particularly excited about her upcoming role as a Teaching Assistant for Momentum Coding Academy, a program for high school students from underprivileged districts. Danielle's journey reflects her dedication to empowering others and making a positive impact through technology.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

\$2000 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

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BAIA GRDZELISHVILI '27

York College of Pennsylvania
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering



Baia Grdzelishvili, an international student from Georgia, is set to graduate in 2027 from York College of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Her journey in the technology industry is marked by resilience, leadership, and a commitment to making a significant impact. As a Presidential Research Fellow, she focuses on electronic technologies in the medical field, gaining essential skills and knowledge. Baia's academic and extracurricular pursuits demonstrate her leadership and work ethic, earning her numerous awards and achievements.

Her fully funded exchange year at Perkiomen School as an ASSIST World's Leading Scholar included a capstone project that automated the school's farm, resulting in increased revenue and product quality. At York College, she has won engineering competitions, participated in IEEE and WISE workshops, and mentored teams. As the youngest student in her college, Baia aspires to be a role model for others, particularly young girls passionate about STEM.

Baia aims to leverage her skills and experiences to positively impact millions of lives through pioneering technologies, medical devices, startups, or mentorship initiatives. Her journey reflects her dedication to excellence, innovation, and inspiring others in the technology industry.



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