

September 12, 2021

To: WI Academic Alliance Members

Re: NCWIT-WI Welcomes you to the 2021-2022 Academic Year!

On behalf of the NCWIT-WI Board of Directors, WELCOME BACK to what can only be described as “another year like no other” in the world of Higher Ed!

Your institution is registered as part of the Academic Alliance of the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT). You are receiving this as a primary contact for your institution. The WI Affiliate of NCWIT helps execute national programming through local volunteers. I am the coordinator of the Wisconsin Affiliate and currently serve as the Academic Engagement-Collegiate committee lead.

We are counting on you to engage others on campus to get to know NCWIT-WI and work towards an inclusive environment for women in tech on campus. If you are no longer a primary contact for your institution, please let me know as soon as possible.

Time Sensitive: Aspirations Application Window is NOW OPEN!

The first activity that occurs during the school year is the Aspirations in Computing (AiC) Application window. The Aspirations program consists of three awards, one for HS women, genderqueer and non-binary students, another for HS Educators and the third is the Collegiate Award. You should have received emails from NCWIT announcing each of these awards. Here are the application dates for each:

- 9/1/21 - 11/5/21: [AiC High School Award](#) (2021-2022 season)
- 10/1/21 - 12/6/21: [AiC K-12 Educator Award](#) (2021-2022 season)
- 9/1/21 - 10/15/21: [AiC Collegiate Award](#) (2021-2022 season)

Please spread the word regarding the high school student and educator awards through your K-12 STEM networks. Please ESPECIALLY encourage all women, genderqueer and non-binary students at your institution to apply for the collegiate award at this time. They may need your help/endorsement.

Here are a several links to information that will help your spread the word:

- AiC HS Award: [Email sent to students](#)
- AiC: [Email sent to teachers/endorsers](#)
- NCWIT Collegiate Award: [Email sent to post-secondary institutions](#)

If you have questions, of course, please email me directly.

Engage a Team

Please consider who else on campus can help you spread the word. Consider reaching out to a representative from related academic disciplines, students services/life, financial aid, marketing, STEM outreach, etc..

Aspirations Event will be in the first half of May, 2021. All honorees will be recognized in spring at our annual awards ceremony.

Benefits

Being a member of the [NCWIT Academic Alliance](#) is free and provides your institution with the following benefits:

- Newsletters and resources with important research and best practices for creating an inclusive environment on campus.
- Faculty recognition and grant awards.
- Student access to NCWIT community & opportunities for recognition and grant awards including, but not limited to the Aspirations Collegiate Award
- Connections to other related networks that expand opportunities for faculty and students on campus
- Servant leadership opportunities to give back by supporting your local Aspirations affiliate's activities and events.

Related References:

- [NCWIT Wisconsin website](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)
- [2020-21 Aspirations in Computing Program Booklet](#) (with a shout out to all of you!)
- Higher Education Webpage Example: [WIT@MSOE](#) (let us know if you have a website dedicated to women in tech on campus too!)
- [WIT Wisconsin](#) – WIT Wisconsin is a separate organization that is operated [regionally \(currently NEast Wisconsin, SEast Wisconsin and SCentral Wisconsin\)](#). We work very closely together. Membership to WIT Wisconsin is free for college students and provides access to a wide array of professional development events. Their [WIT On Campus program](#) pairs college students with professional mentors.

Please do not hesitate to reach out at any time with questions or a request for support. Ultimately, YOU provide the environment that allows #girlsintech to become #womenintech.

We look forward to working with you during this school year.

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