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Winners of Innovation Awards Program announced

By:

Eight innovative, outstanding women across Connecticut were honored recently during the fourth annual Women of Innovation awards dinner at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. The awards program, sponsored by the Connecticut Technology Council, recognizes women in the workforce who are innovators, role models and leaders in the technology, science and engineering fields.

Eight innovative, outstanding women across Connecticut were honored recently during the fourth annual Women of Innovation awards dinner at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. The awards program, sponsored by the Connecticut Technology Council, recognizes women in the workforce who are innovators, role models and leaders in the technology, science and engineering fields. Students at both the high school and college level are also recognized. "Each year, we are in awe of award winners' outstanding accomplishments," said Matthew Nemerson, president and CEO of the Connecticut Technology Council. "Connecticut has an extraordinary pool of at its technology companies. We are proud to offer an awards program that honors exceptional innovators and leaders and provides them with a professional network of other women who strive for excellence." Keynote speaker Sigal Zarmi, CIO and quality officer of GE Corporate Financial Services, addressed the crowd of approximately 550 attendees. Her speech focused on bridging the curiosity gap in the U.S. and urged audience members to help by supporting the state's education system, breaking down existing stereotypes of scientists and other innovators as "nerds" and acting as a mentor to friends, colleagues and students with a passion for innovation. "I believe that the deficiency in basic science and math education in the U.S. compared with other countries is a result of a serious curiosity gap," said Zarmi. "If students are not interested in figuring out how things work in their classes, they are probably not going to be interested in how to make a product better, or how to invent a new processor, or develop a new way of making a life-saving drug. We should all do a much better job of promoting curiosity, as curiosity leads to innovation."

The 2008 Women of Large Business Innovation and Leadership went to

Suzan DeGarmo, lead survivability engineer, Sikorsky Aircraft-UTC, Stratford

Suzan DeGarmo has nearly six years of experience in rotorcraft design, vulnerability analysis and qualification of ballistic components and armor. She is the vulnerability project lead for the CH148 Maritime Helicopter and UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter with specific oversight to ballistic qualification. Prior to joining Sikorsky, she worked for Boeing as the AH-64 vulnerability lead. DeGarmo has been instrumental to a number of Live Fire Test and Evaluation programs, the Joint Aircraft Survivability Program, Joint Combat Assessment Team and the Army Aircraft Shootdown Assessment Team. DeGarmo resides in Stratford

The Connecticut Technology Council is the state's industry association for the technology sector. CTC's mission is to "connect people, ideas and opportunities to the global technology and innovation community." CTC provides members with business assistance and specialized programs, in addition to promoting and supporting public policies that position Connecticut to have a globally recognized "culture of innovation" that helps attract great ideas and entrepreneurs to in turn develop new jobs and wealth for the state.



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