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## **Connecticut Technology Council Announces Finalists for Fifth Annual Women of Innovation Awards Program**

*Women leaders in technology, science and engineering to be honored  
during January 29 awards dinner*

**HARTFORD, Conn. (December 9, 2008)** – The Connecticut Technology Council (CTC)'s Women of Innovation planning committee today announced the finalists for the fifth annual Women of Innovation awards program. This program recognizes women – those in the workforce and students – across Connecticut who are innovators, role models and leaders in their fields.

The winner in each of the eight awards categories will be announced during the 2009 Women of Innovation Awards Dinner at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on January 29, 2009.

“This year's 2009 finalists represent another outstanding class of women innovators and leaders,” said Beth Alquist, chair of the planning committee for the Women of Innovation awards program. “They serve as esteemed role models to their peers and women interested in pursuing challenging careers that require outstanding quantitative, critical thinking and management skills within today's technical and science professions.”

This year's list of 52 finalists includes researchers, educators, managers, business owners and service providers who work in biotech, pharmaceuticals, telecom, software, computer hardware, electronics, alternative energy, nanotech, medical devices and IT.

High school, undergraduate and graduate students who have demonstrated extraordinary and unique achievements in technology are also among the finalists. The winner in the Youth Innovation and Leadership category will receive a scholarship from the Connecticut Technology Council.

**The 2009 Women of Innovation awards finalists are, by category:**

### **Academic Innovation and Leadership**

- Patricia Compagnone-Post, associate professor of biology, Albertus Magnus College, New Haven
- Amy Howell, professor, University of Connecticut Department of Chemistry, Storrs

- Liisa Kuhn, assistant professor, Dept. of Reconstructive Sciences, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington
- Jani Pallis, associate professor, University of Bridgeport
- Sarah Raskin, associate professor, Trinity College, Hartford
- Kyle Vanderlick, Thomas E. Golden, Jr. Professor and dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, Yale University, New Haven

### **Collegian Innovation and Leadership**

- Laura Baker of East Haddam, student, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain
- Zoe Cournia, postdoctoral fellow, Yale University, New Haven
- Emily Neumann of Litchfield, student, University of Connecticut, Storrs
- Merry Smith, student, Trinity College
- Subrina Thompson, graduate student, University of Bridgeport

### **Community Innovation and Leadership**

- Diane Curtis, academic developer and evangelist, Microsoft, Farmington
- Susan Masino, associate professor, Trinity College, Hartford
- Joy Wulke, founder and creative director, Projects for a New Millenium, Branford

### **Entrepreneurial Innovation and Leadership**

- Jennifer Hanson, CEO, Realsight, LLC, Darien
- Bala Krishnamurthy, CEO, Aeolean, Inc., Ridgefield
- Teresa Piliouras, president, Albright Associates Inc., Weston
- Rekha Shertukde, president, Diagnostic Devices, Inc., Simsbury
- Alice Turner Thompson, owner, URISE, Inc., Manchester
- Leonora Valvo, CEO, The Global Executive, Ridgefield
- Li Zhao, CEO/president, Fabric Trends International, LLC, Plainfield

### **Large Business Innovation and Leadership**

- Nancy Beckwith, manager of supplier quality, Electric Boat Corporation, Groton
- Robin Bray, pilot, flight operations, United Technologies Corporation, Hartford
- Donna Cyr, director of technology licensing, University of Connecticut, Farmington
- Diane Drew, manager, thermo/aerodynamics, UTC/Hamilton Sundstrand, Windsor Locks
- Julia Hutchinson, manager, engine center cost reduction group, UTC/Pratt & Whitney, Middletown
- Patricia Lombardo, engineering specialist, Electric Boat Corporation, Groton
- Pamela Mackenzie, area vice president, Hartford/Springfield, Comcast Corporation, Enfield
- Georgia Papatomas, senior vice president and CIO, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Ridgefield
- Theodora Saunders, manager, system engineering process group, UTC/Sikorsky Aircraft, Hamden
- Jodi Vecchiarelli, acting director of physical sciences, United Technologies Research Center, East Hartford
- Nancy Williams, IT director, GE Capital-CFS, Norwalk
- Yuling Wu, director of computer science and physical science, advanced concepts and technology, Pitney Bowes, Shelton

### **Research Innovation and Leadership**

- Jun-Hong Cui, associate professor, computer science and engineering, University of Connecticut, Storrs
- Mingjun Huang, senior director of virology, Achillion Pharmaceuticals, New Haven
- Danielle Merrick, senior engineer, Electric Boat Corporation, Groton
- Lynne Regan, professor, Yale University, New Haven
- Barbara Sahagan, research fellow, Pfizer, Inc., Groton
- June Watzl, scientist, MRI human brain research, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven
- Susanne Yelin, associate professor of physics, University of Connecticut, Storrs

### **Small Business Innovation and Leadership**

- Sally Cohn, executive vice president, client services, RecoveryPlanner.com, Inc., Shelton
- Betsy Didan, assistant vice president, document processing, COCC, Avon
- Heidi Douglas, president and CEO, MysticMD, Groton
- Margaret O'Hara, group vice president, products, IVANS, Inc., Stamford
- Deborah Santy, program director, The Connecticut Small Business Innovation Research office, East Hartford
- Jean Stimolo, executive director, Rideworks, Connecticut Department of Transportation, New Haven

### **Youth Innovation and Leadership**

- Brenda Lisitano, student, Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science, Hartford
- Oluwadamilola Oni-Orisan, student, Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science, Hartford
- Sanjay Patel, student, Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science, Hartford
- Priya Ranade, student, East Lyme High School, East Lyme
- Fiona Wood, student, North Haven High School, North Haven
- Chelsea Yalen, student, Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science, Hartford

Finalists were nominated by their peers and selected based on their professional experience, history of innovation, ability to think creatively and solve problems and demonstration of leadership. Students were judged on inventiveness and accomplishment in science and technology and academic achievement.

To view the full list of criteria, please visit CTC's Web site, [www.ct.org](http://www.ct.org). Please contact Mike Scricca at (860) 289-0878, ext. 334 or [mscricca@ct.org](mailto:mscricca@ct.org) with questions regarding the program or awards dinner.

### **About the Connecticut Technology Council**

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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