



**Attention Media: Photos and full bios for each winner are available upon request.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Connecticut Technology Council Announces Winners of the Fifth Annual Women of Innovation Awards Program**  
*Winners Honored at Gala on January 29*

**HARTFORD, Conn. (January 30, 2009)** – Ten innovative, outstanding women across Connecticut were honored January 29th during the fifth 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.

“Connecticut has an extraordinary pool of talented women working at its technology companies, many of them anonymously,” said Matthew Nemerson, president and CEO of the Connecticut Technology Council. “This awards gala allows us to put the spotlight on these exceptional innovators and leaders and provide them with a professional network of other women who strive for excellence.”

Keynote speaker Dr, Gina Colarelli O’Connor, an associate professor from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s School of Management and Technology, addressed the crowd of nearly 500 attendees. She spoke about her work studying the innovation process at large companies such as Intel, IBM and DuPont. Her work of the last 13 years concludes that where innovation is given an opportunity to happen regularly is where innovation is supported as a business function and a discipline of its own. She pointed out the accomplishments of some current women innovators and urged the women present to continue to develop the technology, leadership and business management skills around the innovation function.

**The 2009 Women of Innovation winners are, by category:**

**Academic Innovation and Leadership**

Liisa Kuhn, assistant professor, Department of Reconstructive Sciences, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington. Kuhn’s research is focused on engineering biomaterials that help cure cancer or regenerate bone.

**Collegian Innovation and Leadership**

Zoe Cournia, postdoctoral fellow, Yale University, New Haven. Cournia is presently a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University, working on the discovery of novel anti-cancer agents, and a lecturer at Yale College, teaching "Computer Modeling of Biomolecules."

### **Community Innovation and Leadership**

Joy Wulke, founder and creative director, Projects for a New Millennium, Branford. Wulke is a nationally recognized sculptor whose work bridges visual art and architecture through technology and ecology.

### **Entrepreneurial Innovation and Leadership**

Bala Krishnamurthy, CEO, Aeolean, Inc., Ridgefield. Krishnamurthy's software company designs and develops software for robotics and automation systems. A pioneer in the robotics industry, she was also recently honored as the first woman to be awarded the prestigious Engelberger Robotics Award.

### **Large Business Innovation and Leadership (two 2009 Winners)**

Diane Drew, manager, Thermo/Aerodynamics, UTC/Hamilton Sundstrand, Windsor Locks. Drew holds a number of patents in aircraft system technology and is currently responsible for the design of complex aircraft thermal management systems.

Georgia Papatomas, senior vice president and CIO, Boehringer Ingelheim USA, Ridgefield. Papatomas is responsible for the long-term IT strategy of Boehringer Ingelheim and overseeing all its IT operations.

### **Research Innovation and Leadership**

Mingjun Huang, senior director of virology, Achillion Pharmaceuticals, New Haven. Huang has been instrumental in the discovery and advancement of three clinical compounds for the treatment of HCV infection, a disease which affects 180 million people worldwide.

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

Sally Cohn, executive vice president, client services, RecoveryPlanner.com, Inc., Shelton. Sally Cohn is a veteran of the disaster recovery/business continuity planning and management industry and has performed a variety of entrepreneurial and leadership functions to drive the successful growth of RecoveryPlanner.com.

### **Youth Innovation and Leadership**

Oluwadamilola "Dami" Oni-Orisan, Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science and New Britain High School. Oni-Orisan plans on becoming a pediatric neurosurgeon in the future. In her brief career, she has joined University of Connecticut students and scientists to do ecological field research in South Africa.

### **Public Sector Innovation and Leadership**

Connecticut Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz. Bysiewicz was recognized for her extraordinary efforts to introduce new technology to her office and to the voting process in Connecticut.

The 2009 Women of Innovation Awards Gala was generously supported by Boehringer Ingelheim USA, the law firm of Day Pitney LLP, and United Technologies Corporation.

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

The Connecticut Technology Council ([www.ct.org](http://www.ct.org)) 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.