18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# WOMEN OF INNOVATION® CONNECTICUT TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL



October 25, 2023



# COMMITTED TO TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Congratulations Connecticut Technology Council's Women of Innovation<sup>™\*</sup> finalists

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#### 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

ME

NECTICUT TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL



On behalf of the Connecticut Technology Council, welcome to the 2023 Women of Innovation<sup>®</sup> Awards. This is our first in-person gathering since 2019, and we are excited to continue the tradition!

Now in its 18th year, the annual Women of Innovation<sup>®</sup> program is a unique and central part of the Council's mission to unite and support CT's tech community, advocating the value of diversity and equity for sustained growth and impact. The WOI program recognizes women innovators, role models, and leaders in science and technology professions, including outstanding young women in high school and college pursuing technology and science studies. Individually and collectively, they stand out in their respective fields and occupations, breaking new ground and glass ceilings with their impressive accomplishments.

Through the years, our vibrant network of over 800 women has expanded to include the significant contributions of each year's honorees. We enthusiastically spotlight and support these outstanding women—scientists, researchers, academics, manufacturers, student leaders, entrepreneurs, and technicians. As catalysts for scientific advancement they are strengthening Connecticut's future in STEM - science, technology, engineering, and math and paving the way for tomorrow's advances.

At CTC, we recognize the importance and impact of the STEM fields in our daily lives. This impact has never been more evident or consequential than in the recent pandemic years. The work these extraordinary women pursue, the leadership and mentoring they provide, and the innovation they produce is worthy of recognition and celebration. This year's 34 finalists were selected from over 80 well-qualified nominees. Our judges—experts from across STEM disciplines and occupations—had no easy task, as many nominees were deserving of the awards. Finalists from around the state were selected based on their commitment to innovation and accomplishments in science and technology, independent research, as well as academic achievement and community service.

Our 2023 award winners are selected from the finalists in seven Innovation & Leadership categories: Academic, Community, Corporate, Entrepreneurial, Research, Collegian and Youth. Join us in congratulating them tonight!

Continuing the Women of Innovation tradition is possible because of the support of our sponsors and the dedicated efforts of our committee, staff, judges, and volunteers. It takes a village, and we are so grateful for each of you. To the CTC Board of Directors and Executive Committee and members, thank you for your commitment to this event.

We hope you meet and connect with our finalists during the networking reception. Following the event, we invite you to visit the Women of Innovation<sup>®</sup> website,

www.ct.org/womenofinnovation, to learn more about these remarkable finalists and our upcoming programs. We thank you for helping us recognize the contributions of notable STEM professionals across business and industry, joined by young women at the threshold of their careers.

The Connecticut Technology Council is committed to upholding the Women of Innovation legacy, and to promoting equity and diversity in technology and science. Enjoy the celebration and see you in 2024!

MScrwin

Milena Stankova Erwin Executive Director, CTC

**Giovanni Tomasi** Board Chair, CTC

#### ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

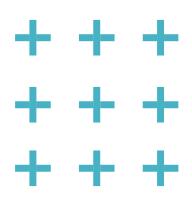
NECTICUT TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

The Connecticut Technology Council is a statewide member-based trade association focused on uniting and growing Connecticut's technology community by connecting leaders and organizations and providing tech companies access to resources for growth. Formed in 1994, CTC gives a voice to all technology companies, big and small, by creating a platform for sharing ideas, challenges, and best practices. With a diverse member and partner network, CTC is a hub that brings together the state's technology community, public sector, and service providers to network and advance Connecticut's reputation as a tech-centered state.

Programs include:

- CEO roundtable
- Professional roundtables
- Seminars on topics of interest (Cybersecurity, AI, HR, Leadership)
- Panel discussions
- Networking events

Contact us and join our community! For more information, visit <u>www.ct.org</u>



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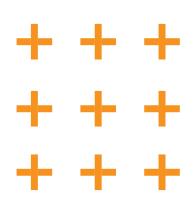
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# Congratulations to all the nominees!



We are honored to have Jennifer Good, our President and CEO, named as a finalist for the Community Innovation and Leadership award.

Based in New Haven, CT, Trevi Therapeutics, Inc. is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing the investigational therapy Haduvio<sup>™</sup> (oral nalbuphine ER) for difficult to treat patients with chronic cough in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), other chronic cough indications, and prurigo nodularis.

www.TreviTherapeutics.com



# MYSTIC AQUARIUM SUPPORTS WOMEN IN STEM





### Proud of our finalist Katie Cubina



Senior Vice President of Mission Programs

# THE COMMITTEE

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Executive Director Connecticut Technology Council

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#### Angela Cacace

Senior Vice President of Neuroscience and Platform Biology Arvinas

#### **Elizabeth Contini**

Engineering Manager Medtronic

#### Leila Daneshmandi

Co-founder and COO (Encapsulate) and Assistant Professor of Innovation & Entrepreneurship (University of Connecticut) Encapsulate, University of Connecticut

#### **Deborah Day**

Chemistry Teacher Suffield Public Schools

#### **Caroline Dealy**

Associate Professor University of Connecticut Health Center

#### **Jeannine Fisher**

Senior Scientist II/Scientific Project Manager Metrum Research Group

#### **Sean Formantes**

Undergraduate/Marketing Intern Quinnipiac University/Red Wave Ventures

#### **Susan Froshauer**

President and CEO Pangolin Therapeutics, Inc.

#### **Jenny Gaffney**

Director, Project Management Voya Financial

#### **Christine Gemelli**

Associate Director, Engineering University Relations and Partnerships RTX

# THE COMMITTEE

#### **Tracy Gardner**

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Executive Director ABCT

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#### **Taranjeet Kaur**

AM- Marketing (Digital) VLink Inc.

Pauline Murphy Senior Investment Manager Connecticut Innovations

#### Jani Marcari Pallis Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering University of Bridgeport

Ugur Pasaogullari Professor, Mechanical Engineering University of Connecticut

#### Melissa Petruska VP, Product Development Sonalysts Inc.

**Stacie Ropka** Partner, Attorney Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider LLP

**Ellyn Savard** Senior Manager of STEM Program Girl Scouts of Connecticut

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Founder and Chief Executive Officer LambdaVision

#### **Martha Yaney**

President & Founder Vista Group International, Inc.

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#### 18<sup>™</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN OF INNOVATION AWARDS EMCEE

#### SARAH CODY | NEWS 8

For more than 20 years, Sarah Cody has been sharing stories about interesting places and inspiring people throughout Connecticut.

At WTNH News 8, Sarah serves as weekend morning anchor. She also produces and reports two weekly segments, 8 Things To Do This Weekend and Connecticut Families. She loves meeting folks around the state who advocate for their kids while raising awareness about important topics.

Before coming to News 8, Sarah worked at Fox 61 for 18 years, producing and hosting the popular Mommy Minute and DayTrippers segments. She also covered breaking news events, such as 9/11. For a time, she spearheaded an Arts and Entertainment series, interviewing numerous celebrities.

Often tapping into her own experiences, Sarah wrote a parenting column for the Hartford Courant and contributed home and travel features to Hartford Magazine.

After graduating from Trinity College in Hartford, Sarah began her media career at 7 News in Boston, where she was an assignment editor, satellite producer, and field producer.

Sarah is the proud recipient of three Emmy Awards, and has received a Food Allergy Hero Award, a Mental Health Media Award, and a Local Leader-Local Legend Unsung Hero Award.

She lives on Connecticut's shoreline and enjoys combing the beaches with her husband, Paul, sons Sam and Ben, and rescue dogs, Lucy and Jack.

#### AWARDS AGENDA

#### 5:00 - 6:00pm

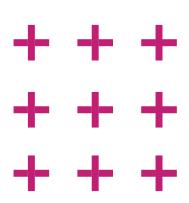
NECTICUT TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

Networking Reception

#### 6:00 - 7:00pm

#### Awards Ceremony

Opening remarks and CTC Welcome Medtronic (Platinum Sponsor) Welcome Congratulatory Videos Finalist Recognition & Winner Announcements Closing Remarks



# Proud sponsor of the 18th Annual Women of Innovation Awards.

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# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Connecticut Technology Council Women of Innovation Awards finalists including

#### Akiko Iwasaki, PhD

Sterling Professor, Immunobiology & Professor, Dermatology & Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, Yale University

#### **Paula Zimbrean, MD** Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Surgery (Transplantation), Yale School of Medicine

# Yale YALE VENTURES

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#### **CATEGORY:** Academic Innovation & Leadership

# **MARISSA BARRETO** Lead Magnet Teacher, The Aerospace/Hydrospace and Physical Science High School

Marissa has been a teacher for 20 years in Bridgeport. She was awarded the Bridgeport Rotary Club "Service Above Self Award" in 2019 and recognized as one of 74 teachers across the US to earn the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Outstanding Teacher of the Year award in 2021-2022. She is an outstanding teacher who inspires, engages, and empowers her students by creating transformative learning experiences in her classroom through the PLTW programs.



# **DR. LAURIE CAINES** Associate Professor of Medicine, Director, Clinical Skills Assessment Program, University of Connecticut Health Center

Laurie is an internist and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine (UConn SOM). She has had multiple roles in undergraduate medical education and now serves as Interim Assistant Dean of Clinical Medical Education. She was awarded a grant from the NBME to create a clinical reasoning assessment for medical students and serves as Treasurer of the Directors of Clinical Skills Education.



#### **IVANA MILANOVIC** Professor of Mechanical, Aerospace & Acoustical Engineering, University of Hartford

Ivana is a professor of mechanical engineering with ongoing research in vortical flows and inquiry-based learning. She is a contributing author of more than 100 journal articles, NASA reports, conference papers, and software releases. Her work on enhancing STEM education with simulations and applications has been featured in IEEE Spectrum, Ansys Academic Web Seminar, Ansys Blogs, COMSOL News Guest Editorial, COMSOL Blogs, KGH interview, and Design World among others



#### PATRICIA RINALDI Chemistry Teacher, Wilton High School

Patricia is a passionate chemistry teacher at Wilton High School. With a strong commitment to fostering curiosity and critical thinking in her students, she has dedicated her career to making science engaging and accessible. Patricia's innovative teaching methods and hands-on experiments have inspired countless students to pursue careers in the sciences. Her enthusiasm for her students' success makes her a beloved figure in the school community. Patricia actively participates in local science fairs and mentors aspiring young scientists.



#### **CATEGORY:** Academic Innovation & Leadership (continued)

**PAULA ZIMBREAN** *MD*, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Surgery (Transplantation), Yale School of Medicine

Paula has dedicated her 20 years as a psychiatrist and addiction specialist to enhancing mental health care in patients with chronic medical conditions. Her accomplishments include piloting a proactive model to address mental health problems for hospitalized patients and starting a mental health program for CT refugees. She helps organ recipients and living organ donors navigate the transplantation journey. Paula teaches medical students, residents and advanced trainees and leads various professional national groups, authoring over 50 articles and book chapters.

#### **CATEGORY:** Community & Innovation Leadership

# **GWENDOLYN BRANTLEY** Founder & Executive Director, ACCESS Educational Services

Gwendolyn started her career as a Human Resources professional in various industries, where STEM stood out as the career of the future. Noting the disparities of representation and lack of exposure to STEM fields for Blacks and other young people in the Bridgeport community, she charted an NSBE Jr. Pre-College Initiative program of the National Society of Black Engineers. Achieving College and Career Exceptional Skills for Success (ACCESS) exposes underserved and underrepresented students to STEM education.



# **DANA GILLAND** Senior Vice President, Environmental Social Governance, ApiJect Systems Corporation

Dana has over 25 years of corporate legal expertise, driving positive global change as a trailblazer in innovation, technology, and philanthropy. A recent Presidential Volunteer Service Award recipient, the White House recognized Dana for community service leadership. Her contributions span many areas, including advancing diversity in corporate boardrooms, mentoring, helping to improve access to medicines, and supporting the mission of various charities.



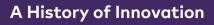
#### JENNIFER GOOD Co-founder, President and CEO, Trevi Therapeutics, Inc.

Prior to founding Trevi Therapeutics, Jennifer served at Penwest Pharmaceuticals Co. from 1997 to 2010, where she held various leadership positions. She is active in CT bioscience as an Executive Women in Bio member and leader in the New Haven Chamber's Bioscience Collaborative. Jennifer also helped establish the SPRINT program, a collaboration between CT bioscience companies to hire paid summer interns.





FuelCell Energy applauds the 2023 Women of Technology honorees!



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#### **CATEGORY:** Corporate Innovation & Leadership

#### KATIE CUBINA Senior Vice President, Missions Program, Mystic Aquarium

Katie Cubina oversees and integrates Mystic Aquarium's STEM and environmental education, research, exhibits, and ocean policy programs under the banner of conservation. She is the project director on multiple federal grants, including a \$2.5-million STEM mentoring initiative that engages thousands of vulnerable youth in over 60 communities nationwide. Cubina served as interim President and CEO in 2022. She currently co-chairs the Aquarium Conservation Partnership, which comprises 27 accredited aquariums.



#### MICHELLE JOHNSON Chief Executive Officer, Metrum Research Group

Michelle has over 20 years of experience in strategy, operations, marketing, and business management, covering multiple industries. As CEO of MetrumRG, Michelle is responsible for providing strategic leadership, management, and direction to ensure the company is fulfilling its mission and goals. Michelle holds an MBA from Babson College, with a concentration in business analytics, and a B.A. degree in advertising and public relations from the University of Central Florida.



#### **MICHELLE MADDEN** Lead Project Engineer for Operational Military Engines, Pratt & Whitney

Michelle works in Pratt & Whitney's Materials & Process Engineering organization. She has over 17 years of combined technical and managerial experience with RTX Corporation. Michelle's current portfolio of projects are focused on increasing engine time on wing and reducing lifecycle cost to ensure safety and reliability of P&W engine programs. Michelle is also the acting Productivity Manager and Cybersecurity Ambassador for her organization.



#### NANCY MILLER Director, Project Engineering, Triumph Group, Inc.

Nancy's interest in engineering and aerospace started at an early age, encouraged by her engineer father and pilot mother. After earning a degree in mechanical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, she relocated to Connecticut to work for Collins Aerospace in Windsor Locks. She then moved on to Triumph Group in West Hartford. Over the course of her career, Nancy has worked as a stress analyst, designer, writer, project engineer and is now an engineering director.

#### **CATEGORY:** Corporate Innovation & Leadership (continued)



#### IOANA STANESCU Manager of Systems Engineering, HyAxiom, Inc.

Ioana was born in Bucharest, Romania. She graduated from "Politehnica" University of Bucharest in 1995 and obtained two M.S. degrees in Chemical Engineering in 2001 from "Politehnica" and in 2005 from UConn. Ioana has worked at HyAxiom Inc. in East Hartford for the past 15 years and is currently the Manager of Systems Engineering. Her role involves designing and testing hydrogen fuel cell power plants and electrolyzers and mentoring young engineers.



#### **REBECCA VELEZ FREY** President and Chief Executive Officer, Siduma Therapeutics

Rebecca is an accomplished biopharma executive with deep experience in drug development. In addition to her role with Siduma Therapeutics, she is a venture partner at Elm Street Ventures. She also serves on the boards of two emerging biotech companies, Halda Therapeutics and Octant. Rebecca co-founded Executive Women in Bio of CT and currently volunteers for BioLaunch and Latinos in Bio.



# **BRITTANY ZABINSKI** Component Integrated Product Team (CIPT) Leader, Pratt & Whitney

Brittany is from Burrillville, Rhode Island. She attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute and completed her B.S. in mechanical engineering. Afterward, she joined Pratt & Whitney and started a family with her college sweetheart. She returned to WPI and completed her M.S. in systems engineering. Brittany is currently the CIPT Leader for the F135 Engine Core Upgrade. She resides in Tolland, Connecticut, with her husband, children, dog, and chickens.

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#### **CATEGORY:** Entrepreneurial Innovation & Leadership

**LEILA DANESHMANDI** Co-founder and COO of Encapsulate and Assistant Professor of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, University of Connecticut

Leila Daneshmandi is co-Founder and COO of Encapsulate, a seed MedTech startup in cancer precision diagnostics that has raised over \$1.8M and is currently conducting clinical studies. As Assistant Professor in Innovation & Entrepreneurship at the University of Connecticut, she has also founded the Entrepreneurship Hub at the School of Engineering to foster an ecosystem of technological entrepreneurial development and growth. Leila is also a TEDx speaker and board member at the Connecticut Invention Convention.



#### MICHELLE FRANK Chief Growth Officer, Goodroot Inc.

As an accomplished sales leader and entrepreneur for over 20 years, Michelle is instrumental in identifying new business opportunities and implementing innovative commercial strategies for solutions and technologies created within the Goodroot community. As Chief Growth Officer, she is responsible for recruiting top talent, developing market strategies, and building successful sales and marketing strategies. Michelle is committed to empowering and arming the industry with products and solutions that make healthcare more affordable and accessible for every American.



#### STACEY DUBELL MILETI Chief Executive Officer, Unisoft Medical Corporation

Stacey resides in Torrington working in an old factory building wielding digital engineering tools to ensure students' growth through the process of creation. Unisoft is a medical device design and manufacturing company that was a spin-off of Trlby Innovative, LLC. It's not clear how Stacey parlayed an Art History degree into CEO positions at Trlby Innovative and Unisoft Medical; the current consensus is that no one told her she couldn't.







Congratulations Jennifer for your innovative research in nanotechnology & sustainability!

Thank you to Peter Werth and the Werth Family Foundation for supporting Jennifer and her research through the Werth Nanotechnology Industry Academic Fellowship Program

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# WEEKDAYS 10AM



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NATASHA LUBCZENKO & ALYSSA TAGLIA





# Congratulations to the 2023 Women of Innovation Finalists!



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Wealth Management.com 2022 Industry Awards Finalist

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### VLink Inc. is proud to be part of the CTC "Women of Innovation" Celebration



Thanks to VLink Marketing Manager, Taranjeet Kaur with the guidance of Marketing Director, Tracy Gardner for lending a "helping hand" with the 2023 WOI promotional campaign

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#### **CATEGORY:** Research Innovation & Leadership

#### **ROSALIE BORDETT** Graduate Researcher, University of Connecticut Health Center

Rosalie is a National Science Foundation Program Graduate Research Fellow pursuing her Ph.D. in the biomedical sciences program at the UConn Health Center. Her research in tissue engineering focuses on leveraging electrical and chemical stimulation to enhance the regeneration of large-gap peripheral nerve injuries. With eight peer-reviewed research articles, she is a recognized expert. Additionally, Rosalie is deeply committed to training and mentoring women in science.



#### **ELISE COURTOIS** Director, Single Cell Biology Lab; Senior Research Scientist, The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine

Elise holds a Ph.D and is a molecular biologist who utilizes state-of-the-art single-cell and spatial multiomics technologies to explore complex human diseases. After her postdoctoral training in Singapore, she joined The Jackson Laboratory in 2017. As Director of the Single Cell Biology Lab, she pioneers these innovative technologies for research on Women's Health, particularly on endometriosis. In addition to her research, Elise advocates for increased awareness and funding for the disease.



# **AKIKO IWASAKI** Immunobiology & Professor, Dermatology & Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, Yale University

Akiko's research focuses on the mechanisms of immune defense against viruses at mucosal surfaces. Professor Iwasaki has been a leading scientific voice during the COVID-19 pandemic and is also well known for her Twitter advocacy on women and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science and medicine. Additionally, Akiko is an Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.



#### KATHERINE (KAT) KAYSER-BRICKER Chief Scientific Officer, Halda Therapeutics Inc.

Kat holds a Ph.D. and is an accomplished drug discovery leader with experience across several therapeutic areas, with core expertise in small molecule cancer therapies. She joined Halda Therapeutics shortly after its founding, bringing her enthusiasm for company building, oncology and platform innovation. Through her scientific and organizational leadership, the company established a novel platform technology and pipeline. Previously, Kat spent 10 years as a key scientific leader at FORMA Therapeutics.



#### CATEGORY: Research Innovation & Leadership (continued)

#### **BRONWYN POWER** Associate Director, Pratt & Whitney

Bronwyn is an Associate Director and Subject Matter Expert for fan and compressor aerodynamics. Before joining Pratt & Whitney in 2019, Bronwyn was a Senior Technical Specialist for fan-system research and new product introduction at Rolls-Royce Corporation. In preparation for her industry career, Bronwyn completed her Ph.D. in research at the Whittle Laboratory, University of Cambridge, in her home country, England.



# **LESLIE SHOR** Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut

Leslie is a mentor, researcher, professor, and Associate Dean of Engineering at UConn. Leslie works at the intersection of chemical engineering, advanced manufacturing, and environmental biotechnology. Her lab invents and develops technology to protect the environment and to enhance sustainable food production. Leslie has mentored over 80 different students with more than 60% of these students identifying as members of marginalized groups that are underrepresented in engineering.

#### **CATEGORY:** Collegian Innovation & Leadership

#### JENNIFER MOSES ARULRAJ MOSES Southern Connecticut State University

Jennifer graduated from Southern Connecticut State University in 2023 with a B.S. degree in Chemistry (Concentration: Biochemistry) and a minor in Biology. Her undergraduate honors thesis focused on addressing climate change through Direct Air Capture technology. She characterized the adsorptive properties of biochar for capturing CO2, using both computational and experimental methods. She is pursuing a Master's in Chemistry at Southern. Currently, she is working on her graduate thesis.



#### FEI DOU 2023 Graduate, University of Connecticut and University of Georgia

Fei obtained her Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Connecticut, supervised by Prof. Jinbo Bi. Her research concentrates on harnessing AI/ ML techniques to bolster the efficiency, privacy, and scalability of the Internet of Things (IoT). Fei's investigations encompass various IoT domains, including location-based services, natural disaster damage detection, intelligent agriculture, recommender systems, and wireless sensor networks. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Computing at the University of Georgia.

# **DAY PITNEY** LLP

### **Congratulations honorees!**

We are proud to be a gold sponsor of Connecticut Technology Council's Women of Innovation<sup>®</sup> Awards



For more information on Day Pitney's Women Working Together, please visit bit.ly/DPWWT.

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# 18th Annual Women of Innovation Awards!

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South States



#### CATEGORY: Collegian Innovation & Leadership (continued)

**AUDREY LARSON** Undergraduate Researcher, co-Founder Geomate LLC and unfolded LLP, University of Connecticut

Audrey is a college junior studying Materials Science and Engineering. She is a student researcher in metallurgy and concrete materials. Audrey has founded two businesses: Unfolded LLP, a jewelry and apparel company and Geomate LLC, a startup that is working to create an app to help students feel safer on college campuses. On campus, Audrey works at OPIM Innovate, a technology-themed makerspace.



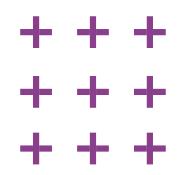
#### ALYSSA MATZ Undergraduate Student, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Alyssa is a passionate and dedicated scientist who challenges herself and others to address crucial health problems. As a Ph.D. candidate, Alyssa sought to innovate techniques to bridge computer science and immunology to study cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and vaccination, leading to publications and a fellowship from the American Heart Association. Alyssa hopes to motivate and mentor aspiring scientists toward innovative research through her persistent enthusiasm and dedication to scientific discovery.



#### HEPHZIBAH RAJAN 2023 Graduate, Quinnipiac University

Hephzibah is a recent graduate with a B.S. in Computer Science and minors in Finance and Math. She has received multiple awards both on and off-campus, including the 2023 ASEE National Engineering Intern Student of the Year. She also served on campus as a Resident Assistant, Web Director for the studentrun television station and President of the International Student Association. Currently, she works in New York City for ION Group, a global fintech provider, as an analyst.



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#### **CATEGORY:** Youth Innovation & Leadership

#### ADITI BHATTAMISHRA High School Student, Amity Regional High School

Aditi, an incoming senior at Amity Regional High School, has been working with her hands since childhood, progressing from building blocks to LEGO robotics to CAD design. For the past three years, she's been doing research to push the boundaries of prosthetic technology and spearheading community workshops about 3D printing for children, aiming to present STEM as a creative outlet. Aditi enjoys playing the violin, drawing, and gaming to relax.



#### KATHERINE CHAN High School Student, Joel Barlow High School, Region 9

Katherine is a rising senior at Joel Barlow High School in Redding, Connecticut. Her research, which examines the antibacterial activity of sugar kelp against pathogenic bacteria, reflects her interest in aquatic ecosystems and native wildlife. Katherine's current work focuses on creating a project that tracks the plankton that causes harmful algal blooms in Connecticut. This project will allow students and community members to engage with the research effort.



#### EMMA CONWAY High School Student, Suffield High School

Emma is a senior at Suffield High School. Her interest in science and math led her to join the Science Fair Club and Math Team. She hopes to pursue a career that encompasses her passion for STEM. Emma is also the President of the National Honor Society and member of the World Language Honor Society. She is also a captain of the Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track teams.



#### ANA-LOIS DAVIS High School Student - CREC Academy of Aerospace & Engineering

Ana-Lois is a high school senior who is active in FIRST robotics as a build team captain, drive team member, STEM outreach volunteer and 2023 FIRST Dean's List national winner. As a Girl Scout Ambassador, she mentors younger scouts. She's a student inventor and researcher competing in the Connecticut Invention Convention, Science Fair and ISEF. She is currently a Discovery to Cure intern at Yale University researching gynecological cancers.

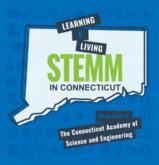


#### CATEGORY: Youth Innovation & Leadership (continued)

#### SANDRA (SANDY) LU High School Student, 2023 Graduate, Avon High School

Sandy will be studying chemical biology at the University of California's Berkeley's College of Chemistry. Pursuing her interest in the biomedical sciences, she interned at the University of Connecticut Health Center's Kumbar Lab, researching the use of natural polymers in drug delivery applications for tissue/bone regeneration. She has also been actively involved in the arts, earning multiple awards regionally and internationally, and is working towards using art to revitalize science through her company Kaleidoscope.





# CONGRATULATIONS

# to all the finalists and winners celebrated tonight at the CT Tech Council's 18th Annual Women of Innovation

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Visit us at www.ctcase.org, follow us on our Linkedin page, and subscribe to our new podcast series, *"Learning and Living STEMM in Connecticut"* 

#### WOMEN IN STEM

- Women occupy 35% of the STEM workforce in the U.S., compared with 48% of the total workforce. (NSF, 2021)
- Between 2011 and 2021, the number of women in the STEM workforce increased 31%. (NSF, 2021)
- Only 38% of women who major in computer science and 24% of women who major in engineering work in these fields. (Pew Research Center, 2018)
- Men in STEM earn annual salaries nearly \$15,000 higher per year than women; Latina and Black women in STEM earn around \$33,000 less. (Pew Research Center, 2018)

#### TECH AND INNOVATION IN CONNECTICUT

- Home to 6,500+ technology establishments, ranging from health IT to quantum computing. These create 59,300+ tech jobs across the state. (Lightcast, 2021)
- #4 in the U.S for having the most innovative economy. (Bloomberg State Innovation Index, 2020)
- #9 for most innovation potential in the U.S. (WalletHub, 2023)
- #4 in the U.S. for Knowledge Jobs. (Information Technology Innovation Foundation, 2020)



NECTICUT TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

#### > JOIN THE CONNECTICUT TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

With a mission to unite, grow and support Connecticut's technology community, CTC is committed to advocating the value of diversity and equity for sustained growth and impact.

In recognition of your support of today's Women of Innovation event, we are pleased to offer you a 15% discount on 2024 CTC membership. Offer is valid for event attendees only until December 31, 2023. Contact us at <u>hello@ct.org</u> for details!

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Gee von next year!



To learn more about Women of Innovation in Connecticut, and to stay connected across the state, please visit

<u>www.ct.org/womenofinnovatior</u>