



Sept 15, 2020

WIT Community,

COVID-19 is creating an evolving situation with varied impacts on Women in Technology Wisconsin, Inc. Thanks to our boards, members, volunteers, Collaborative Partners and Corporate Sponsors we are becoming a stronger organization during these uncertain times. To show of our appreciation for your continued support:

WIT Wisconsin will be extending all Corporate Sponsorships and personal memberships** through the end of 2020. We will take this time to assess our future needs and communicate with you as we move into 2021.

***** Visit www.witwisconsin.com/membership for more information***

We would like to thank everyone in Wisconsin for their continued involvement as WIT Wisconsin moves into our 6th year. The 2019-20 season was successful as we made quick transitions to adjust to the new COVID-19 world and we are building on this foundation for the 2020-21 season.

State-Wide Growth

WIT Wisconsin achieved an important milestone as we successfully expanded from a Northeast Wisconsin focus to encompass three regions across the state. To support this expansion, we grew from one board of nine volunteers to four boards with a total of 24 volunteers.

Our structure now includes:

- 1 State-Wide Board
- 3 Regional Boards: SE Wisconsin (Milwaukee area), SC Wisconsin (Madison area) and NE Wisconsin (Appleton/Fox Cities Area)

This new structure maintains our 501c3 charitable organization status and we continue to be 100% volunteer led. All fundraising efforts continue to support our mission to attract, grow, and retain women in technology careers while encouraging girls to discover technology.

State-Wide Programming

WIT Wisconsin is passionate in supporting and growing the community of technology females in Wisconsin. Our three pillars provided many opportunities for engagement during the 2019-20 season. This programming included:

WIT@Work: Retaining Females in Technology Careers

Only 24% of computing jobs are held by women. It's worse at the top of the corporate world with women holding just 5% of the leadership positions in the technology industry.

- **Breakfast Series:** Historically these were monthly in-person events. Due to COVID-19 we pivoted to bi-monthly virtual events. Virtual events led to a record number of attendees. Since this format was so successful the 2020-21 season will continue virtually until it is safe to meet in person again.
- **Executive Leadership Group:** We offer the highest-level female professionals in Wisconsin companies an opportunity to network.
- **Brand Ambassadors Group:** This group is made up of females in our Corporate Sponsor companies that champion WIT Wisconsin's mission within their organization.



WITonCampus: *Attracting Women to Technology Careers*

Only 18% of undergraduate computer science degrees are received by females, one of the highest gender disparities in course subjects.

- **Professional Connection:** Over three years, this program has matched over 100 female students from eight colleges with female Technology Role Models and led to multiple internship opportunities that ultimately evolved into full time hires.

WIT4Girls: *Growing girls to discover technology*

High school computer science classes have enrollment of only 14% girls. WIT Wisconsin is committed to changing these metrics. It starts with positive role models and empowering girls to be creative, leaders and problem solvers both in school and in their communities.

- **Girls Who Code Clubs:** WIT Wisconsin has successfully helped start five Girls Who Code clubs with 42 members across Wisconsin. Girls are winning NC-WIT Aspiration Awards due to their middle school involvement in these clubs.
- **Train the Trainer Community Events:** Over the past two years, we have trained over 100 community leaders on how to encourage girls to discover technology and code using AdaFruit Circuit Boards.
- **Microsoft Girls Workshops:** Since 2018, we have empowered over 100 volunteers across 20+ companies to participate in Microsoft Girls Workshops engaging over 400 middle school girls across 6 communities. We were expecting even higher numbers, but due to COVID-19 all in person workshops were cancelled. Virtual programming models are being reviewed and implemented across Wisconsin for the 2020-21 season.

Visit our website to view the 2020-21 [State and Regional Boards](#) and [Corporate Sponsors](#) .

The success of WIT Wisconsin starts with our Corporate Sponsors, Collaborative Partners, members, attendees, and volunteers. The belief in our mission is truly changing how women and girls are viewing technology careers.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Michelle Schuler
Co-Founder/State President

Adrienne Hartman
Northeast Region President

Molly Gallmeier
South Central Region President

Jennifer Rice
Southeast Region President

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