

NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

Sponsored by Bank of America

Award Purpose

The “NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing” acknowledges the computing achievements and aspirations of young women, and generates visibility for women’s participation in computing-related pursuits.

Affiliate Awards

In addition to the National Aspirations Award program, there will be Affiliate Award programs this Fall in Illinois, Texas and Florida to recognize even more young women. The application period is the same and young women in those states will automatically be entered into both the Affiliate and National competitions. Affiliate Award prize packages will vary. The Affiliate Awards are possible through a generous grant from the Motorola Foundation.

Award Criteria

- » Applicants must be high-school girls (grades 9-12).
- » Applicants must reside in the United States of America.
- » Applicants should have a demonstrated, outstanding aptitude and interest in IT/computing.
- » Applicants should have demonstrated leadership ability.
- » Applicants should have good academic history, typically a GPA of 3.0 or better.
- » Applicants should have post-secondary education plans.
- » Students from underrepresented groups¹ and current Juniors/Seniors are strongly encouraged to apply.
- » For tax purposes, each applicant must have a valid social security number or Tax ID number.
- » Past applicants including semi-finalists are encouraged to apply, however, previous award-winners are not eligible to reapply or receive any awards.
- » Relatives of employees or board members of NCWIT are prohibited from receiving the award.

Award Components

Each qualified National award winner will receive:

- » \$500 in cash²
- » a laptop computer, provided by Bank of America³
- » a trip, including airfare for nonlocal winners (restricted to winners outside of a 50 mile radius of the Charlotte, NC metro area), some meals, and lodging, all provided by Bank of America, for each awardee and one accompanying parent or legal guardian, to attend the Bank of America Technology Showcase and Awards Ceremony held in Charlotte, North Carolina March 27, 2010.^{3,4}
- » an engraved award for both the student and the student’s school

¹ Groups underrepresented in computing include women, persons with disabilities, African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

² The cash award is classified as taxable income that needs to be reported to the IRS. Any applicable taxes are the responsibility of the award winner and her parent(s) or guardian(s).

³ To the extent required by law, Bank of America will report the value of the gift/reward to the IRS on Form 1099. Any applicable taxes are the responsibility of the award winner and her parent(s) or guardian(s).

⁴ Failure by National awardees and/or her parent(s) or guardian(s) to return notarized travel waivers, book travel in the allotted time or attend the Bank of America showcase and ceremony may result in forfeiture of all awards hereunder.

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Award Process

- » Applicants must complete the online application, electronically sign the consent release and provide a name, email address and phone number for a parent/guardian and school official to endorse the application.
- » Applications will be reviewed by committees of computing/education professionals who will recommend a slate of National awardees; final selection will be made by NCWIT and Bank of America representatives at their sole discretion.
- » Affiliate Award selection will be made by the Affiliate Award committees in each respective designated area.
- » Endorsing schools will be encouraged to advertise the Award and recognize the students in their school and parent community (through newsletters, for example, or award ceremonies). A publicity kit will be provided to each such endorsing school.
- » Each applicant and her parent/legal guardian must electronically sign a release form indicating support of the student's consideration for the Award and consent to use the student's likeness and information in press-related materials, including print collateral, video, and media articles.
- » Awardees and their parents/legal guardians must sign a hard-copy release to participate in the award event.

Please note that all application materials and related materials become the property of NCWIT, and cannot be released for other purposes and will not be returned.

Complete application materials and details are available at www.ncwit.org/award.

Online applications including parent/guardian and school endorsement must be submitted by midnight November 15, 2009.

Applications that are late or incomplete will not be considered. Award selection notification will be made by approximately mid-December 2009.

I want to be at the forefront of technology — designing something people can't even conceptualize right now

~ Gabriella

South Hadley, MA
2009 Award-winner

The entire experience of being an Aspirations Award-winner has been both fun and inspiring.

~ Elisabeth

Chicago, IL
2008 Award-winner

The laptop and \$500 will enhance my college experience and lead me to greater success as an engineer.

~ Gracie

Duncanville, TX
2008 Award-winner