

## The Global Technology Challenge

### Primary Contact:

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Background: Just prior to the Grace Hopper, in September 2004, a new effort to address the role of technology in the world will be launched. The description of the Summit is as follows:

"For 24 hours each fall in San Francisco, the annual Tech Nation Summit brings together individuals who by their own passion, or that of their organization, seek to comprehend the role of technology in our world, and to identify and address the challenging issues of our time, either created by or potentially solved by emerging technology..."

The World Class Challenges which shall be addressed – and will continue to be addressed from this point forward – include "Women and Technology", "Humane Thresholds for Life", Techno Waste, Intellectual Property, Biotech, "Ubiquitous Ecology", and the role of technology in supporting "Peaceful Change."

Motivation: Germane to the Grace Hopper Conference is the need to raise technology issues and methodology to the global level. We believe that this will change the essential conversation of Computer Science and Engineering. Women who build any technology need to be aware of this concept, and women in general need to have a sense of the role technology plays for women worldwide.

### Proposed Description of Session:

Primarily emceed and led by Moira Gunn, the session would cover:

- Overview of the Tech Nation Summit 2004
- Overview of the World Class Challenges and the Leaders, and the background of Challenge, Role of Technology, Alternatives/Status, What would Success Look Like
- Moira Gunn will present a short overview of today's Global Penetration of Technology ... or "Who's Got What" as well as the importance of global focus
- Telle Whitney will present "Women and Technology" – her particular leadership area, its global perspective, what came forward from the conference, its overlap with other World Class Challenges, and a personal experience from the Summit
- Nancy Levitt will present the response of the business and research community to the ideas presented by these World Class Challenges, and what she has learned personally from this experience
- Other Summit attendees/World Class Challenge Leaders may be asked to join as Grace Hopper nears
- Other World Class Challenge leaders/Summit attendees may be asked to provide quotes/thoughts to be included. The first comment that springs to mind comes from a recent E.O. Wilson email: "This is an important event, obviously."

From a "show" standpoint, digital pictures from the Summit would be continually projected (two different screens might be best here) Rick Smolan, the former Life/Time photographer who created "America 24/7" is a member of the Organizing Committee and specifically interested in bringing this forward.

The idea is to give a general session that excites the Grace Hopper attendees to: (1) Appreciate the need for global focus in all technology. (2) Understand how their actions as technologists affects the world. (3) Ignite the spark of building technology which can benefit humanity. (4) Identify within themselves their own values and their aspirations vis-à-vis technology. (5) Witness what can be done creatively to build a vision, supporting the idea that – like Anita Borg herself – each of us can have a vision of what the world can be like and how the world can change

## **Workshop Participants**

Moira Gunn

Dr. Moira Gunn is best known as the host of Public Radio's Tech Nation, the sole nationally syndicated technology program on public radio and NPR's Satellite Radio service. In over 2,000 interviews with space pioneers and cyber-novelists, venture capitalists and genetics researchers, teachers and technophobes, she looks at every facet of our lives through the lens of technology. As a former NASA scientist and engineer, Dr. Gunn was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University, where she has been named both an "OldMaster" and an "Outstanding Mechanical Engineer". She holds other advanced degrees in Computer Science, has been awarded a software patent in Nutrition Science, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Dr. Gunn is currently a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tech Museum of Innovation, the Advisory Board of the Anita Borg Institute for Women & Technology, and The Tech Awards' Global Leadership Council. She has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of San Francisco for over 20 years. She also serves as the Chair of the Tech Nation Summit, and Editor-in-Chief of the Tech Nation Report to the World.

Telle Whitney

Telle Whitney joined the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology as President and CEO in October of 2002. Before accepting the position with the Anita Borg Institute she was part of the founding management team at Malleable Technologies, a startup in the programmable communication area. Malleable was acquired by PMC-Sierra in June 2000. She served as Vice President of Engineering at Malleable until its acquisition. Prior to joining Malleable, Telle was an executive at Actel Corporation, where she held a number of diverse positions in the software engineering and chip design. In 1994 Telle co-founded the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing conference along with Dr. Anita Borg. Telle received her Ph.D. from Caltech in 1985, and her BS at the University of Utah, both in Computer Science.

Nancy Levitt

Nancy Levitt is Development Director for the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology, and Director of Strategy and Development for Tech Nation group. Prior to joining the Institute, Nancy was Philanthropy Services Manager at Hewlett-Packard. A veteran of over three decades in technology, Nancy designed and implemented one of the first web-based and paperless systems for grants application, review and processing. Nancy joined Hewlett-Packard in 1981 as a software engineer and systems analyst. She spent five years in Corporate Quality managing processes and metrics before joining Corporate Philanthropy in 1991. With Dr. Anita Borg at the Institute for Women and Technology, Nancy was instrumental in bringing the Virtual Development Center concept to reality. Prior to joining HP, Nancy was Co-Founder and President of Handley Walker Data Services with operations in San Francisco, New York and London. Nancy has held various elected and appointed political positions including Mayor of the City of Belmont, Vice President of the Peninsula Division League of California Cities and Director of the San Mateo County Expo Center.