

National Center for Women and Information Technology

(A new solution for an old problem)

Primary Contact

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Panel Summary

At all phases of the education and career pipeline, women – from sixth-grade girls to high school seniors, from computer science majors to telephony engineers – are opting out. Women are increasingly absent from the technical innovation process – at a time when technology plays a significant and ever growing role in all of our lives. Innovation is suffering; so too are women's income potentials, as many of the fastest growing jobs have significant IT components.

The National Center for Women and Information Technology (www.ncwit.org) is a national coalition of individuals and organizations whose aim is to turn this problem around in 20 years. The Center's hubs (University of California Berkeley/Irvine, Georgia Tech, University of Colorado, Girl Scouts of the USA, the Anita Borg Institute and the Computing Research Association) will develop effective practices and programs based on social science research for the entire pipeline, from K-12 through higher education and careers. In addition to the national programmatic reach provided by the hubs, we will also have a Social Science Network comprised of top researchers in the country (<http://www.ncwit.org/social.html>), an Academic Alliance which any university can join to learn about effective practices and change (<http://www.ncwit.org/academic.html>), and an Industry Alliance – founding members of our Industry Alliance are IBM, HP, Microsoft and Sun.

Topics that our panel will discuss include

- Why do we need a National Center for Women and Information Technology?
- What will the Center do?
- How will the Center achieve its goals?
- How can people be involved?

Panel Participants

Moderator: Lucy Sanders

A recipient of the Bell Labs Fellow Award, Ms. Sanders retired as a CTO and Vice President of R&D at AT&T Bell Labs, Lucent Bell Labs and Avaya Labs. She joined the University of Colorado's ATLAS (Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society) institute, whose broad mission includes bridging information technology with the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Ms. Sanders is a co-founder of the National Center for Women and Information Technology, a broad national coalition whose goal is to increase the number of girls and women choosing IT disciplines and careers. Lucy serves on a number of non-profit boards, as well as on the boards of several high-tech companies. She also has received 3 patents in the telecommunications area. Ms. Sanders recently received the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award from the College of Engineering at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Our **Panelists** will be members of the National Center's Leadership Team:

1. Lecia Barker

*Lecia Barker leads the Evaluation and Research Group of the ATLAS Institute at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The Evaluation and Research group collaborates with faculty and outreach partners in conducting evaluations and research in IT workforce issues, technology curricula, student technology use, faculty use of IT in instruction, and the development and use of web-based, self-contained learning modules. Lecia holds a Ph.D. in communication from the University of Colorado, Boulder, an MBA in marketing from San Diego State University, and a BA in Spanish, Linguistics, and Portuguese from the University of Iowa. Lecia is a member of the National Center for Women and Information Technology's **Social Science Network**.*

2. Andy Bernat

Andrew Bernat is currently the Executive Director of the **Computing Research Association**, whose mission is to strengthen research and education in the computing fields, expand opportunities for women and minorities, and improve public and policymaker understanding of the importance of computing and computing research in our society. His experience is truly interdisciplinary and international, ranging from scientific research, with some 62 invited presentations and publications, to educational reform and innovation, with some thirty invited presentations and publications. Andy has led national efforts to increase the participation of underrepresented minorities and women in the computing profession.

3. **Mary Jean Harrold**

Mary Jean Harrold received the BS and MA degrees in mathematics from Marshall University and the MS and PhD degrees in computer science from the University of Pittsburgh. She is the NSF ADVANCE Professor of Computing and associate professor in the College of Computing at **Georgia Institute of Technology**, where she is a member of the Center for Experimental Research in Computer Systems (CERCS) and the Graphics, Visualization, and Usability Center (GVU-Center). Dr. Harrold currently serves as Vice Chair of ACM SIGSOFT. She is co-chair of the Computing Research Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Computing (CRA-W). Previously, she directed the committee's Distributed Mentor Project. She is a member of the ACM, IEEE Computer Society, and Sigma Xi.

4. **Sharon Hussey**

Sharon Woods Hussey is responsible for the broad spectrum of program and related membership services that **Girl Scouts of the USA** provides for Girl Scout offices nationwide including the work of the national Girl Scout Research Institute. Ms. Hussey began her employment at GSUSA as an educational curriculum specialist focusing on math and science. She advanced through a number of management positions and was named National Director in 1993 and Senior Vice President in 2002. Ms. Hussey has an undergraduate degree in biology and an MS Ed. in administration and public policy, both from Fordham University, New York.

5. **Deborah Keyek-Franssen**

Deborah Keyek-Franssen is an IT Initiatives Coordinator in the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic and Campus Technology at the **University of Colorado** at Boulder. She also plays a significant planning and development role in ATLAS (the Alliance for Technology, Learning, and Society), a multidisciplinary, academic unit that focuses on IT in curriculum, research, and outreach programs. With a professor from Geography, she coordinates a faculty group engaged in several social implications research projects in the area of gender and IT. She also coordinated a four-campus gender and IT symposium that facilitated discussions between faculty, administrators, and staff of the four CU campuses, and local K-12 and industry communities. Deb completed her Ph.D. in German Literature at the University of Michigan, where she also earned a master's degree in Higher Educational Administration from the Center for the Study of Higher and Post-secondary Education, and a graduate certificate in Women's Studies.

6. **Debra Richardson**

Debra J. Richardson is the Ted and Janice Smith Family Foundation Dean of the School of Information and Computer Science at the **University of California, Irvine**. She received a B.A. in Mathematics from UC San Diego, with the intention of teaching high school math. However, she became interested in computer science and chose graduate school instead. Five years later, she received the Ph.D. in Computer and Information Science (COINS) from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Richardson was appointed department chair at Irvine in 2000. She quickly created a plan to transition the department from a department to a school; the plan was approved by the UC Board of Regents and President in December 2002, and Debra was appointed the founding Dean of Information and Computer Science.

7. **Robert Schnabel**

Dr. Schnabel is founding director of the ATLAS Institute, an innovative campus-wide enterprise that serves as a catalyst for multi-disciplinary curricular, research and outreach activities involving the content and tools of Information Technology. A faculty member in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Colorado, Boulder since 1977, Dr. Schnabel has been active in diversity-related activities, serving on major strategic planning committees for the Multicultural Engineering Program and the Women in Engineering Program, in the University's College of Engineering. He is a **co-founder of the National Center for Women and Information Technology**.

8. **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 areas. 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. She is a **co-founder of the National Center for Women and Information Technology**.