TECHNOLOGY woman OF THE YEAR 2022

Awards Breakfast at Monroe Golf Club
Thursday, Sep. 22, 2022 | 7:30 AM — 10:00 AM

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Welcome to the 22nd Annual Rochester’s Technology Woman of the Year Awards Ceremony!

Celebrate. We celebrate 22 years of Rochester’s Technology Woman of the Year Event. This is over two decades of incredible achievements from local women in many companies you know or may not know, from startups to major corporations in our community. We continue to amplify women’s achievements in STEM in our community with this year’s 2022 Technology Woman of the Year and Emerging Technology Woman of the Year Awards. These awards are honoring their contributions to the profession, recognizing their support of other women, and being stewards in their community.

Leading Change. Change brings excitement, anxiety, growth, but also new ways of exercising leadership. Our nominees are asserting their leadership by embracing change throughout their lives. We know you will find inspiration in how they lead change in each of their stories. A leader of change, our Keynote Speaker, Dawn G DePerrior, Executive in Strategic Business Information Technology will share her journey and experiences with us.

Stronger Together. Success comes from those that support us along our journey. Sharing stories together, recognizing our diverse backgrounds and experiences, forming close connections brings perspective and makes us stronger together.

We sincerely thank our Sponsors, Judges Panel (Eileen Askey Christopher Casey, David Mammano, and Nicole Newman), Speakers, and Event Committee for their contributions and involvement in bringing you this event today!

Enjoy the celebration today!

Garland Nichols, PhD
Women in Tech Peer Group Leader
Nixon Peabody congratulates Jennifer Jovcevski on her nomination as a finalist for the TechRochester Technology Woman of the Year Award. Through her legal skills, national and community engagement, and mentorship, she is forging a path for women in tech and beyond.

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About TechRochester

TechRochester is an organization comprised of professionals and companies that are working together to strengthen the Greater Rochester Area’s technology community. We accomplish this through the development and sponsorship of relevant events and stimulating programs focused on skill building and the cultivation of individual and business relationships.

TechRochester was founded in 2000 as Digital Rochester. In 2010 the organization grew with the inclusion of the Association for Women in Computing (AWC) and the eBusiness Association (eBA). TechRochester rebranded in 2018 in order to further the organization’s role as a leader in this area’s technology transformation.

The events and community services developed by TechRochester include a wide array of educational and networking activities designed to support the growth and success of the Rochester business community. Through generous corporate sponsorships from a wide variety of technology companies and community organizations, we’ve been able to consistently enhance our area’s standing as a technology center.

Mission

TechRochester’s mission is to help drive economic growth in the region’s technology community through education and relationship development.

Vision

TechRochester advances the transformation of Rochester into a top 10 technology region through collaboration, education and recognition.
About the Awards

Recognizing, celebrating and making visible the achievements of women in high technology fields. Through the Technology Woman of the Year Award and The Emerging Technology Woman of the Year, women who work in these professions are encouraged to stay in the Greater Rochester area, mentor young women, and contribute to the economic growth of the region.

Eligibility & Criteria

Eligible nominees include who:

- Are in a profession within the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Field
- Work within the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Area (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans and Wayne Counties)
- Are employed in a company whose primary product is technology or in a technology or technical department of a non-tech organization

Evaluation Categories, Criteria, & Weighting

Sustained contributions to the technology profession — Demonstrated impact to the profession, as illustrated by length of time in the profession, highest level achieved, success promoting or implementing technology, details of projects/contributions, professional organization memberships/year joined/service or positions held, technical publications and presentations (including where delivered), degrees/concentrations, and special assignments.

Contributions advancing the status, opportunities, and employment for women in the technology professions — Demonstrated contributions to women, as illustrated by mentoring activities, hiring practices, developmental publications, and presentations, etc.

Contributions to the community — Support for the involvement in the community, as illustrated by volunteer activities, developing new programs, providing leadership services to community organizations or influencing the goals of those organizations.
2022 Nominees
Technology Woman of the Year

Jennifer Allen
Sr. Engineering Manager, GE Renewable Energy

Taylor Cotter
Sr. Strategy Program Leader, Datto

Jennifer Jovcevski
Attorney, Nixon Peabody

Lisa Nelson
Associate VP, IT Applications URMC

Amy Reed
Head Women’s Basketball Coach, RIT

Annette Warren
President, iSecure

2022 Nominees
Emerging Technology Woman of the Year

Greeshma Johnson
Technical Project Manager, Avangrid

Rachael Simmonds
Frontend Software Engineer, Foundry DCG
2022 Event Schedule

7:30 - 8:15am  Registration, Networking, & Breakfast

8:20am  Welcome & Introduction of TechRochester Board
President Garland Nichols, PhD
Women Peer Group Leader & Director Program
Management Office, IDEX Health & Science

8:30am  Keynote Address
Dawn DePerrior
Executive, Strategic Business Transformation

8:55am  2021 Emerging Technology Woman of the Year Address
Kathleen Fear
Director of Data Analytics, UR Health Lab, URMC

2022 Emerging Technology Woman of the Year Nominees
Susan Kavanagh
President Elect of TechRochester & Senior Business Development Specialist, KLDiscovey

9:15am  Announcement of the Emerging Technology Woman of the Year Award Winner
Mark Lucas
Executive Vice President, Entre Computer Services

9:20am  2021 Technology Woman of the Year Address
Shelia Herbert
Chief Product Officer, Measures for Justice

9:30am  2022 Technology Woman of the Year Nominees
Garland Nichols, PhD
Women Peer Group Leader & Director Program Management Office, IDEX Health & Science

9:50am  Announcement of the Technology Woman of the Year Award Winner
Andre Godfrey
President & CEO, Entre Computer Services

10am-10:10am  Closing Remarks*
Garland Nichols, PhD
Women Peer Group Leader & Director Program Management Office, IDEX Health & Science

10:10am- 10:30am  Networking

*All Nominees and TWY Winner photos will be taken at the front of the room immediately after closing remarks.
2021 Sheila Herbert, Chief Product Officer | Measures for Justice
2020 Sharon Samjitsingh, Co-Founder | Health Care Originals
2019 Gabrielle Bedewi, Chief Analytics Officer | Butler/Till Media
2018 Dhireesha Kudithipudi, PhD | Rochester Institute of Technology
2017 Garland J. Nichols | Xerox Corporation
2016 Ewa Pigna | Lenel
2015 Sandra Roberts | Canandaigua National Bank & Trust Co.
2014 Anne Bell | Xerox Corporation
2013 Amy Carey | Amy Carey Consulting
2012 Jennifer Kruschwitz | JK Consulting & University of Rochester
2011 Victoria Van Voorhis | Second Avenue Software
2010 Jeanne Casares | Rochester Institute of Technology*
2009 Mary Piehler | Serverware*
2008 Sharon Martinez | University of Rochester Medical Center*
2007 Christine Scheible | Quantum Technology Associates*
2006 Kathryn Angelidis | Paychex, Inc.*
2005 Sue Chichester | SUNY Geneseo*
2004 Karen Benjamin | Ciber, Inc.*
2003 Eydie Lawson | Rochester Institute of Technology*
2002 Juli Klie | Veritor Executive Advisors*
2001 Barbara Kunkel | Nixon Peabody LLP*

* Award given in honor of all women in IT
2018–2021 Past Recipients
Emerging Technology Woman of the Year

2021  Kathleen Fear, Director Data Analytics | U of R Health Labs URMC
2020  Yasmin Mattox | Arkatecht
2019  Christina Halladay | ITX Corp.
2018  Kristen Seversky | Girl Develop It

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NOMINEES
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Technology Woman Keynote Speaker

Dawn G. DePerrior

Executive – Strategic Business Information Technology / MBA, Quantitative Analysis

We’re honored to have Dawn DePerrior as this year’s 2022 keynote speaker!

With more than 40 year’s experience in tech leadership with major companies across Rochester and the globe, Dawn DePerrior has a lifetime of wisdom and insight to share with us as keynote speaker during our 22nd year celebrating Rochester’s Technology Woman of the Year.

Most recently, Dawn has worked with Ernst & Young, building their healthcare IT consulting practice in the Northeast by focusing on digital transformation, interoperability, cyber, IT cost optimization, EHR and ERP.

Prior, she worked as the Global Vice President, Interim CIO and CISO and Global Vice President of IT Operations, and the Global Vice President of Application and Delivery and Interim VP, of Security at Constellation Brands in Victor, NY. She was recognized for her leadership and competency repeatedly at Constellation Brands. Dawn has also excelled in positions at the University of Rochester Medical Center, Navint Consulting, and KPMG Peat Marwick.
For over three decades Jennifer Allen has lived her passion working in the Technology Industry, delivering value in R&D and Operations across several Fortune 500 companies, including Eastman Kodak, Xerox, and L3Harris Technologies. Today, she is a Senior Engineering Manager - Program Management at GE Renewable Energy, leading a cross-functional engineering team developing technologies and innovative product solutions for GE Grid Solutions’ Critical Infrastructure Communication (CIC) business.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from University of Rochester and an Executive MBA from Simon School of Business at the University of Rochester. She is an ASCENT fellow, with a Mastering Management Certification from Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College. She is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), and a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

Jennifer was recently honored by the Rochester Business Journal as a 2022 Woman of Excellence. She currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Young Women’s College Prep Charter School of Rochester, the only public all-girls charter school in the area. She is a member of the Visiting (advisory) Committee at Hajim School of Engineering, at the University of Rochester, and serves as a Senior Advisor and former national President of the Black Women’s Leadership Council (BWLC).

Allen hails from the island of Jamaica, West Indies, and currently resides in Macedon, NY with her husband and 3 sons: twin seniors in college, and the eldest a musician.
Taylor Cotter is a Senior Strategic Program Leader at Datto, Inc. In this position, she collaborates with leadership to develop and execute projects in service of improving the partner experience. She helps drive strategic initiatives by creating tactical paths of execution, including project plan outlines, milestone development, along with task and risk management.

Through her time at Datto, Taylor also helped manage, plan, and execute strategic leadership offsite meetings and team building sessions. In addition, she worked with the Chief Customer Officer on establishing and maintaining a leadership management system, as well as the creation of collateral for board meetings. One of Taylor’s most notable accomplishments was establishing a department strategic transformation program that consisted of 10 projects, of which she had the opportunity to manage.

Taylor is also Co-Chair for the Datto Women in Technology (WIT) employee resource group (ERG). The mission of this ERG is to provide resources, programs, and advocacy in service of an equal workplace. She coordinates with the WIT leadership team to provide programming, communication, and training opportunities for the development of women and allies within the organization.

Taylor graduated with her Masters in Public Policy and Administration (MPA) from California State University, Long Beach. Prior to this, she received her Bachelor of Arts as a dual major in Political Science and Communication Studies from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY.

She currently resides in Livonia, NY with her husband (Sean), daughter (Kennedy), and golden retriever (Charlie).
Jennifer Jovcevski is an associate in Nixon Peabody’s M&A and Corporate Transactions practice group. Jennifer represents public and private companies of all sizes in commercial transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, negotiating and preparing commercial contracts and advises clients on general corporate matters and corporate governance. Her client base spans across many industries, ranging from food and beverage to technology, engineering and manufacturing to cannabis to professional services, education, health care and more. A significant portion of Jennifer’s practice is on supporting low-income and developing entrepreneurs in Monroe County during their most vulnerable phases of business so Jennifer is also a volunteer attorney for JustCause (formerly Monroe County Volunteer Legal Services Program) in the Micro-Entrepreneur Pro Bono Project to help promote economic growth and social stability locally. As a former educator turned lawyer, Jennifer also serves as outside counsel to charter schools in matters relating to legal requirements and best practices in connection with governance and operational matters.

Over the course of her career, Jennifer has led efforts both inside and outside of her firm supporting and empowering women across industries. Jennifer is the founder and host of Nixon Peabody’s podcast, She Talks Law, available on Apple and Spotify. She regularly authors blogposts and articles about gender equity and inclusion and closing the gender gap in businesses across industries. She is also a long standing member of the Board of Trustees for Young Women’s College Preparatory Charter School and sits on the Board of Directors for the Greater Rochester Association of Women Attorneys.

When not at work, Jennifer can be found spending time with her family, including her husband and 2 sons, Jax and Jagger (ages 2 and 4).
Lisa is the Associate Vice President, IT applications and Chief Applications Officer for the University of Rochester Medical Center and Affiliates. In this role she is Co-CIO and part of a leadership team in the Information Systems Division and directs a team of over 500 people involved in implementing and supporting all of the functions of the EHR as well as over-seeing all applications for URMC. Specifically, her teams plan, develop, and direct institution-wide activities associated with the implementation of clinical and revenue cycle applications in a healthcare setting and supporting, enhancing, and expanding the Epic electronic health record, integrated applications, supply chain and IT training. Prior to her CIO role she was the SR. Director of Core Clinical Systems which focused on supervision of the clinical aspects of the EHR.

Previously Lisa was the Associate Director, Pharmacy Informatics at University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY. Lisa and the URMC Pharmacy leadership team was responsible for developing and overseeing the pharmacy IT platform used throughout the health system, EMR development, medication management tools and data analytics. Previous role, Lisa served as the Associate Director, Clinical Pharmacy Services at URMC.

Prior to URMC, Lisa worked at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston for over 10 years. Lisa has published several papers and is a frequent speaker on matters of Pharmacy Informatics, Technology, Clinical Pharmacy Initiatives and Patient Safety.

Dr. Nelson received her undergraduate Pharmacy degree at the University at Buffalo, Residency at Rhode Island Hospital, and her Doctor of Pharmacy from the Albany College of Pharmacy. Lisa makes her home in Rochester, New York with her husband and four children.
Amy Reed has helped usher in a new era of excellence for the RIT Women’s Basketball completing her thirteenth season as the program’s winningest coach with 175 wins. As head coach, she has led the Tigers to seven Liberty League Tournament appearances and three trips to the NCAA Division III Tournament. Since the start of the 2011-12 season, Reed has led the Tigers to 143 wins.

During her tenure, Reed led the Tigers on its deepest run in the NCAA Tournament, guiding RIT to the third round after a come-from-behind win earning Liberty League Coaching Staff of the Year honors. Reed, was selected to the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) Rochester Area Division II and III Teams and USBWA Rochester Area Division II and III Coach of the Year.

Reed played four years at Division I Marshall University. After graduation, Reed was an elementary physical education teacher, girl’s junior high basketball coach, and girls’ varsity softball coach.

Reed is a strong leader and ally for LGBTQ+ inclusion in athletics. The 2021 Edwina Award Recipient co-authored the department’s Transgender Inclusion Policy and introduced the department’s LGBTQ+ climate survey. She led NCAA OneTeam trainings for coaches and staff, resulting in RIT athletics becoming the first non-Division I school to earn a perfect score of 100 on Athlete Ally’s Athletic Equality Index.

Reed is an avid golfer and accomplished musician, song writer and artist. In addition, she is also the senior woman administrator at the university and co-director of the department’s NCAA Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Team.

Amy earned her master’s degree in athletic administration and bachelor’s degree in physical education from Marshall.
Annette Warren is the President and founder of iSECURE and our sole focus is in Cybersecurity. iSECURE helps their clients proactively protect their data and networks with our a suite of professional services and solutions. Annette has been in the technology industry for over twenty-five years, starting in Internet and Voice services in the 1990s with her husband John. As a non-technical owner, she has always looked at technology through the lens of her clients, helping to demystify risk and compliance while offering a variety of options. iSECURE offers valuable content through events and panel discussions which help to educate our clients who lack time, resources, and experience.

Annette grew up in a family business and learned from a very early age that hard work and passion are important ingredients to success, but family is at the core. This core philosophy is what she brings to her company’s culture everyday - finding ways for iSECURE’s families to find a work-life balance.

In the community, Annette has spent most of her career focusing on talking to students at all levels about the balance between technology and basic career skills. Her passion for offering these skills started with her own children and continues with those in the community. From MCC to Bryant and Stratton, Lemoyne to RIT undergraduates, to University of Buffalo graduate students, her message is clear: find your passion, learn as much as you can and then intern and shadow the job you want.

Annette also spent several years at the PTECH program at Edison Career and Technology High School. She led a group of her own team to help mentor high school students on life skills to prepare them for any career. Her message is clear: get good grades, join sports and internal programs and work part-time anywhere. There are always valuable lessons learned even with a part-time job.

Annette is married to John Warren and have three grown daughters.
Greeshma Johnson works as a Technical Project Manager at Avangrid. She is responsible for the development and execution of large-scale software projects within the energy sector. She has a passion for helping create a greener future with technology. Her role within Avangrid allows her to contribute in creating a healthier and more sustainable environment. The company supports the U.N.’s Sustainable Development Goals and was named among the World’s Most Ethical Companies in 2022 for the fourth consecutive year by the Ethisphere Institute. Her passion for a more sustainable future goes beyond her work, in her free time Greeshma has volunteered with the Food and Nutritional Department at Stony Brook University Hospital. She helped to create the first rooftop farm to grow and harvest organic produce to be used in hospital patient meals.

Greeshma holds a Master in IT Systems Management from Stony Brook University where she was a recipient of the Project Manager Institute scholarship. During her time at Stony Brook, she contributed to research with the Department of Biology and Evolution and was able to present her labs research at the annual URECA Undergraduate Research Fair. She is a certified Project Manager, Scrum Master, and Scrum Product Owner and a contributing editor of the Project Management Book of Knowledge. In 2020, Greeshma was named Long Island Business News 30 Under 30. In her free time, Greeshma enjoys working on home improvement projects and growing her extensive tropical plant collection.
Rachael Simmonds works at Foundry DCG as a Frontend Software Engineer focusing on the Foundry USA Pool. Rachael started her career first at Atos, specializing in computer imaging and packaging, then transitioned to an IT company called Tata Consultancy Services as a Software Engineer.

Rachael grew up in West Henrietta NY, a town west of the city of Rochester. After high school, she attended Rochester Institute of Technology from August 2016 to May 2021 where she studied Web and Mobile Computing and had concentrations in Database Application Development and Mobile Application Development.

Rachael currently lives in Webster NY. When she is not working, she enjoys playing video games, watching movies, TV shows, Kdramas, anime, reading manga, or playing with her cats, Hiro, Yumi, and Haru.