



COME TOGETHER

NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL | WOMEN IN TECH CONFERENCE

DEC. 2, 2021, 9AM – 4PM CST |  VIRTUAL |  FREE

SCHEDULE

WELCOME REMARKS

9 – 10AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS – ABBY WAMBACH & SANGEETHA RAI

10 – 11AM

**DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY:
A JOURNEY TO INCLUSIVITY
THROUGH TECHNOLOGY**

**ART IN ACTION:
GRAPHIC RECORDING 101**

**FINDING THE HUMAN NEED:
EXAMINING FINANCIAL AND
FAMILY TRENDS**

**INFLUENCING:
A MODERN DAY SUPERPOWER**

**ENVISIONING A TECH
STARTUP ECOSYSTEM**

OWN IT! BE BOLD AND BRAG

**WHODUNIT? INVESTIGATING
A CYBER INCIDENT IN
22 MINUTES OR LESS**

**ENTERING THE CRYPTOVERSE –
EXPLORING THE BASICS
OF CRYPTO AND BLOCKCHAIN**

11 – 12PM

**THE ONLY THREE WAYS
TO CONVINCE ANYONE
OF ANYTHING**

**LIGHTNING ROUND: FILLING
THE TECH TALENT PIPELINE**

LUNCH

RETURNING REMARKS & AFTERNOON PREP

12 – 1PM

**LEADING WITH INCLUSIVITY ROUNDTABLE
NEAL SAMPLE, CRISTINA COLISSIMO, RON GUERRIER & KUSUM RAWAT VERMA**

ALL SESSION TIMES LISTED ARE CST

1 - 2PM	NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM	DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY: A JOURNEY TO INCLUSIVITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY	ETHICS IN A.I.: ARTIFICIAL OR INTELLIGENT?	TECH FOR GOOD
	LIGHTNING ROUND: NON-TRADITIONAL PATHS TO TECH	NAVIGATING YOUR CAREER IN TECH: LESSONS FROM LEADERS		
2 - 3PM	HOW TO JUMPSTART SUCCESS WITH MENTORING	SOFTWARE PRODUCT LINE ARCHITECTURE - COMPOSABLE ARCHITECTURE	TAKING RISKS TO SUCCEED	DELIVERING AN EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE
	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: PERSPECTIVES FROM ARCHITECTURE AND APP ENGINEERING	EMBRACING AMBIGUITY IN TECH		
3 - 4PM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS - RESHMA SAUJANI & LAURA DEANER			
	CLOSING REMARKS			

ALL SESSION TIMES LISTED ARE CST


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SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

ART IN ACTION: GRAPHIC RECORDING 101

Shani Penn, Senior Program Manager, Technology Customer Success, Northwestern Mutual

Graphic recording is real-time visual notetaking, often performed at events like conferences, expos and ideation meetings. This workshop will cover the foundations of visual notes and the opportunity to practice live drawing to a short online talk.

DELIVERING AN EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Moderator Reshma Patel, Assistant Director, Technology Customer Success, Northwestern Mutual

Allison Paine Landers, Executive Vice President, Head of Enterprise Customer Experience, Wells Fargo

Cathy Lanning, Managing Director, Salesforce

Madhu Shetty, Vice President, Client Services, Pharmaspectra

Serene Mireles, Staff UX Designer, GE Healthcare and Co-Founder, MB Collab and Like|Minded

A delightful customer experience is top of mind for everyone so let's explore how it's done!

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY: A JOURNEY TO INCLUSIVITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Amy Perales, Senior Director, Product Management, Workplace Identity and Reliability eXperiences, Northwestern Mutual

Sam Kanta, Lead Accessibility Specialist, Northwestern Mutual

This discussion will explore what digital accessibility is, why it is important, and what technology and product teams should consider as organizations mature digital accessibility standards and the governance around them.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: PERSPECTIVES FROM ARCHITECTURE AND APP ENGINEERING

Anu Pakala, Senior Director Engineering, Engineering Solutions Delivery, Northwestern Mutual

Neelam Mohanty, Principal Enterprise Architect, Engineering Solutions Delivery, Northwestern Mutual

This panel discussion will give you insights into the transformation journey - making it business driven, transforming while performing and bringing your people along.

EMBRACING AMBIGUITY IN TECH

Stephanie Michiels, Senior Director, Product Management, Infrastructure and Cloud Services, Northwestern Mutual

Erica Mclin, Head, AWS Tech U, Global Learning Strategy, Amazon Web Services

Navigating ambiguity in the workplace is an important skill for leaders and technologist to lean into to grow in their career. In this session, we'll discuss what ambiguity is, why navigating ambiguity is an important skill, and some tips and tricks that you can use to embrace ambiguity to grow yourself and your career.

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SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

ENTERING THE CRYPTOVERSE - EXPLORING THE BASICS OF CRYPTO AND BLOCKCHAIN

Moderator Andrea Chang, Vice President, Project Delivery, Adage Technologies and Director, Women Who Code

Sara Samuels, Wealth Management Advisor, Northwestern Mutual

Lesley Lin, Senior Technical Consultant, TaxBit

Join us as we discuss the fascinating world of cryptocurrency, blockchain and what it means for you and the financial industry.

Our panelists are Lesley Lin, Senior Technical Consultant from TaxBit and Sara Samuels, Wealth Management Advisor from Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management. This discussion will be moderated by Andrea Chang, Director at Women Who Code and Vice-President of Project Delivery at Adage Technologies.

ENVISIONING A TECH STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

Erin Magennis, Chief Science Officer, Like|Minded

The future of connection in a digital age at the intersection of tech, startups, and corporations.

ETHICS IN A.I.: ARTIFICIAL OR INTELLIGENT?

Moderator Anju Gupta, Vice President, Data and Analytics, Northwestern Mutual

Ashley Casovan, Executive Director, Responsible AI Institute

Aleksandra Mojsilovic, Head, AI Foundations and Co-Director, Science for Social Good, IBM

Bindu Reddy, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Abacus.AI

Ethical concerns mount as Artificial Intelligence takes bigger decision-making role in all aspects of our engagement with technology on an everyday basis. Though the growing appeal and utility are undeniable, its game-changing promise has been tempered with concerns that these systems comes with a risk. This panel will discuss and provide ways to deliver a transparent and ethical AI systems that are resilient and can scaled up or down efficiently as business demand shifts and US regulations mature.

FINDING THE HUMAN NEED: EXAMINING FINANCIAL AND FAMILY TRENDS

Ellie Travanty, Assistant Director, Digital Innovation, Northwestern Mutual

Beth Cole, Assistant Director, Digital Innovation, Northwestern Mutual

Robust trends analysis is critical to "seeing around corners" and framing innovation strategy in an understanding of what the future holds. This talk will explore two financial and family trends impacting women in technology today, and the unique changes to these trends brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

HOW TO JUMPSTART SUCCESS WITH MENTORING

Rhiannon Caufied, Lead Business Program Manager, Technology Customer Success, Northwestern Mutual

Blanca Gonzales, Executive Director, i.c.stars Milwaukee

Kailey Peterson, Direct Materials Buyer, Kohler

Gain confidence in knowing where to start and how to achieve success as a mentor and mentee!

INFLUENCING: A MODERN DAY SUPERPOWER

Moderator Corrie Schroeder, Senior Program Manager, Engineering Solutions Delivery, Northwestern Mutual

Kari Bloom, Senior Director, Business Operations, Strategy and Planning, Northwestern Mutual

Sylvia Banda, Strategic Planning & Process Improvement Manager, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Nichole Albee, Director, Data and Analytics, MGIC

Strong influencing skills can be a superpower when you know how to use them! Attendees will get advice from successful women leaders on how to strengthen influencing skills with tips they can immediately put into practice and apply!

LEADING WITH INCLUSIVITY ROUNDTABLE

Host Neal Sample, Chief Information Officer, Northwestern Mutual

Cristina Colissimo, Executive Producer and Partner, Wellworthit Pictures

Ron Guerrier, Global Chief Information Officer, HP

Kusum Rawat Verma, Chief Technology Officer, GE Healthcare

During this panel discussion, we will explore what it means to lead with inclusivity and why, as leaders, it is critical to build our teams and our products in a way that values diversity of thought, talent, and experience while also identifying and eliminating bias in order to create a more equitable and inclusive environment for the future.

LIGHTNING ROUND: FILLING THE TECH TALENT PIPELINE

Stacy Zaja, Assistant Director, STEM Outreach, Tech Advancement and Outreach, Northwestern Mutual

Nomin Batsaikhan, Assistant Director, Systems Engineering, Infrastructure and Cloud Services, Northwestern Mutual

Dr. Jo Webber, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Pod Network LLC and President, STEMconnector

Laura Schmidt, Chief Talent Development Officer, Milwaukee Tech Hub Coalition

Attendees will hear diverse perspectives from leaders on how their programs are helping build and retain talent globally and locally. Join us to learn how you can be the change you want to see!

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

LIGHTNING ROUND: NON-TRADITIONAL PATHS TO TECH

Carrie Markowiak, Senior Data Analyst, Core Data and Analytics, Northwestern Mutual

Brittany Wolfrom, Assistant Director, Technical Program Management, Northwestern Mutual

Theresa Cassidy, Associate Vice President, IT Project Management, Vertical Screen, Inc.

Kenge Adams, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Connect Business Consulting

Four women share their personal stories on how they arrived in the world of tech despite having different goals when starting their career journeys. Hear how they overcame personal struggles, what's it's like in a male-dominated career, and how others have helped them during their journey.

NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM

Audrey McGuckin, Chief Executive Officer, McGuckin Group

Matters of gender equity and inclusion have been top of mind for society, organizations and women leaders. While some women have risen to the top, the collective progress has been slow. Even the most experienced, skilled and driven women, even in organizations that have made a commitment to gender equity, can encounter roadblocks to their professional advancement. Decision makers don't know how to give the hard but constructive feedback that is required to develop good leaders. Women are not given the resources and taught the skills to navigate a system that is stacked against them. Women aren't dropping out, they're being pushed out by bad policies and process. In this session we'll explore the systems issues that are stopping organizations moving the needle with this critical agenda and the areas that are holding women back.

NAVIGATING YOUR CAREER IN TECH: LESSONS FROM LEADERS

Moderator Shaleyna Velez, Program Manager, Technology Customer Success, Northwestern Mutual

Ann Yeung, Vice President Engineering & Chief Technology Officer, Investment Products & Services, Northwestern Mutual

Tiffany Dillon, Director, Cloud Platform, GE Healthcare

Navigating a career in tech can have its ups and downs. Join this session to hear leaders share the lessons they've learned along the way, what the expectations of being a leader in tech are, things they wish they had known earlier in their careers, and how they stay relevant with tech trends in the industry.

OWN IT! BE BOLD AND BRAG

Cay Drew, Leadership Development Facilitator, IBM

Diane Paulenich, Vice President, Insurance, IBM

Many women struggle to claim credit and share their accomplishments. But are we missing out on opportunities as a result? This 25-minute conversation will cover the what, the why and the how of choosing to self-market. It's a necessary skill to build to achieve the success we want and deserve. Don't let "being uncomfortable bragging" get in the way of you owning your accomplishments and progressing in your chosen field!

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SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

SOFTWARE PRODUCT LINE ARCHITECTURE - COMPOSABLE ARCHITECTURE

Leyla Mousavi, Lead Enterprise Architect, Enterprise Architecture, Northwestern Mutual

Join us for a look at how product line architecture can help technology organizations reach their goals. In this discussion, we'll define composable product line architecture, its components, and what it takes to implement it across an enterprise.

TAKING RISKS TO SUCCEED

Moderator Angie Emrey, Communications Strategist, Northwestern Mutual

Ariane Strombom, Commercial Counsel, Google

Denise Rogers, Vice President, Enterprise Architecture, Northwestern Mutual

Anna Convery, Chief Marketing Officer, Jumio

Patti Tripathi, Founder and President, TriPath Media and Founder, SarisToSuits

How do you know when to take a risk and when to play it safe? Senior leaders share their insights and experience in assessing safety, risk, privilege, and passion to inform decisions throughout their career.

TECH FOR GOOD

Moderator Dana Hart, Vice President, Engineering, Northwestern Mutual

Peggy LeBrun, Director, Philanthropy, Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast

Molly Schuld, Senior Program Manager, Tech Advancement and Outreach, Northwestern Mutual

Brea Stevenson, Engagement Manager, Donor Networks, United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County

Natrina Gandana, Senior Program Manager, Slack for Good

Learn what companies and the tech community are doing to have a positive effect on the greater good.

THE ONLY THREE WAYS TO CONVINCE ANYONE OF ANYTHING

Laura Mathis, Executive Communication Coach and Trainer, Speech Improvement Co.

How understanding your listener supercharges your branding approach.

Every day, we ask someone to trust us, buy from us, partner with us or give us their time. Once you know the only three ways to convince anyone of anything, you can more effectively persuade, convince, influence, and connect. From your unique branding to building deeper interpersonal relationships, everyone needs to master the art of persuasion.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

WHODUNIT? INVESTIGATING A CYBER INCIDENT IN 22 MINUTES OR LESS

Laura Deaner, Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer, Northwestern Mutual

Megan Kaczanowski, Lead Cybersecurity Engineer, Northwestern Mutual

Aaron Katz, Chief Information Security Officer, Private Investment Firm

Ever wanted to be on the front lines of handling a cyber incident? In this presentation, we will briefly review the elements that make up a successful cyber incident response plan and cybersecurity team, then dive into a model incident where the presenters show how different people in an organization (from CEO to system administrator) determine the best way to respond to an incident.