



## Delaware Proclaims “Women and Girls in STEM Day”

Million Women Mentors Announces the 2024 Outstanding Women in STEM Honorees

Governor John Carney and Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long signed a Proclamation, and the General Assembly unanimously passed a Concurrent Resolution declaring March 24, 2024 as “Delaware Women and Girls in STEM Day”. This was the fourth annual celebration of women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in the State of Delaware. The special event was initiated in 2021 by Jacqueline Means, “[The STEM Queen](#)” and Founder of the Girls Empowerment STEM Initiative.

To mark the occasion, Million Women Mentors - Delaware (MWM-DE) and Lt. Governor Hall-Long, National Honorary Co-Chair of MWM, announced this year’s ten Outstanding Delaware Women in STEM. This annual recognition highlights the accomplishments, brilliance, and tenacity of women in STEM, as well as illuminates scientific and technological career pathways for Delaware girls.

The 2024 Outstanding Delaware Women in STEM honorees are:

1. **Myoshi Aubain** currently leads global supply chain and operations for DuPont Industrial Solutions. With over 20 years at the company, she is an asset for strategic planning initiatives, and is called upon to help challenged facilities identify opportunities for growth and change. Myoshi encourages underrepresented children and teens to pursue careers in STEM, and serves on the Delaware State University and University of Delaware Dual Degree Task Force.
2. **Dr. Sujata Bhatia** is a licensed professional engineer, physician, and professor at the University of Delaware, Harvard University and Drexel University. The goal of her work is to improve human health through the application of engineering analysis. Her background spans industry and academia, and includes medical device and biotechnology product development, clinical trials, and intellectual property.
3. **Dr. Jenni Buckley** is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Delaware. She has expertise in design, biomechanics, solid mechanics, engineering education, and diversity and equity issues in the sciences, medicine, and higher education. She is the Co-Founder & Executive Director of The Perry Initiative, a program that inspires young women to pursue careers in Orthopaedic Surgery and Engineering.
4. **Dr. Alexa Dembek**, DuPont’s Chief Technology and Sustainability Officer is a born problem-solver, innovator, and education advocate. She leads business, innovation, and sustainability strategy, while building enduring

- partnerships with customers and strategic partners. She is a passionate champion of talent development and mentorship for the next generation of innovators.
5. **Thianda Manzara** noticed the disconnect between what students learned in school and where their food actually came from, so she designed and founded the Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids (HFHK) “Education Cultivation” program. HFHK’s mission is to inspire healthier lives by providing youth with joyful school gardening experiences. Thianda’s vision is a vegetable garden in every school, leading to generations of healthy families throughout Delaware.
  6. **Laura Randa** is an experienced pharmaceutical executive and entrepreneur who is determined to revolutionize mental health treatment for the millions of people with disabilities. She founded Toivoa and is building a company committed to developing accessible innovations to address mental health illness through a scalable, digital, personalized cognitive behavioral therapy platform.
  7. **Angelica Riemann** was recently named President of the Agilent CrossLab Group. Over the span of her 24-year career at Agilent, she has contributed key strategic insights and recommendations as part of the Agilent Enterprise Strategy Initiative. She has informed high impact business strategies driven by organic investment and M&A opportunities. Her experience includes progressive leadership responsibilities across technical support, sales, program and product marketing, and marketing management.
  8. **Rebecca Martin Robertson** is the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security Program Manager for INFICON with responsibility for technical support, applications, and sales. She has been recognized for her training expertise by several agencies, including Pentagon Force Protection Agency, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Directorate, and the U.S. Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force. She serves as Chair Emeritus of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Industry Group.
  9. **Margaret “Peggy” Vavalla** retired after a 35-year career at DuPont where she rose to leadership roles in STEM community outreach assistance to help public schools with science and math education. She coordinated corporate and state efforts, serving as a key link in supporting the beginning and growth of the Smithsonian Project. She was an early champion of Vo-Tech schools, Future Farmers of America, Career & Technical Education (CTE) and STEM Pathways and was the Founder and President of FIRST Robotics.
  10. **Lindsey Whitecotton** is a Strategic Program Manager at Agilent where she spearheads initiatives that bridge the gap between innovative

technologies and market needs. She is a passionate advocate and leader, building a women's employee networking group within the company for professional and personal development, and empowerment. She also serves as a Council Member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

*Million Women Mentors is the premier network dedicated to encouraging girls and women around the world to pursue, persist and succeed in STEM careers. The Delaware STEM Council and the Delaware Foundation for Science & Math Education (DFSME) are supporting partners of Million Women Mentors - Delaware.*