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News Alert: SIM Recognizes STEM Outreach Excellence With 2nd Annual STEM Outreach Awards

The 2nd annual STEM Awards were given at SIM Connect Live in Dallas recognizing major achievements of SIM's extensive STEM outreach program.

The following awards were presented:

STEM Pioneer: *This award recognizes a Chapter Outreach Committee Chair, committee member or a Chapter Board member whose contributions have significantly advanced local STEM initiatives over multiple years.*

Winner: Joe Kmoch, Founder, JKmoch Associates and member of the Wisconsin chapter

For the past 47 years, Joe has been integral in STEM initiatives in Wisconsin. He has generously helped many high school and middle school students explore careers in information technology and acquire the related computer science skills. Since his retirement from teaching Joe has been active in advancing the teaching of computer science in K-12 and continues to be a pioneer in STEM education in his community.

Most Inspiring Leader: *This award recognizes a Regional Learning Forum (RLF) attendee or alumni, or a chapter member, who is deeply involved in STEM initiatives and has led innovative programs to recruit and mentor STEM students or young professionals during the past year.*

Winner: Cindy McKenzie, CIO, Deluxe Entertainment Services Group and member of the Southern California chapter

Cindy was recognized for her efforts in promoting STEM initiatives and was instrumental in developing a 360-degree program that is designed to open doors and provide the support needed to keep promising young women and minorities in a STEM program. The program offers skill development and work experience

opportunities that will assist them land their first position after graduation and graduate with





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less student debt. She is a co-founder of STEM Advantage, a non-profit which was also honored this year.

Chapter Award – STEM Innovation: *This award recognizes a chapter that sponsors a significant community outreach initiative highlighting technology innovation, STEM career opportunities, and other types of outreach.*

Winner: Charlotte Chapter

The Charlotte SIM Chapter has made STEM Initiatives one of the cornerstones of its community outreach objectives. STEM outreach is very much embedded in the fabric of the chapter.

Among its many initiatives, the chapter has funded scholarship endowments at local universities, supported high school and youth programs to stimulate student interest, and assisted with a summer teacher STEM program with a stipend and thought leadership. The chapter has also supported K-12 STEM initiatives with both financial contributions and awareness-raising programs.

STEM Non-Profit Partner Award: *This award recognizes a non-profit partner that has worked closely with SIM Chapters to make a significant impact in advancing STEM Educational opportunities.*

Winner: STEM Advantage. Award accepted by Lee Ann Kline, President and Founder of STEM Advantage and a member of the Southern California chapter

STEM Advantage has been a tireless supporter of diversifying the STEM fields. The organization mentors, prepares, and inspires young women and underserved communities to pursue STEM careers through paid internships, mentorships, and scholarships. This 360-degree approach is designed to open doors and provide the support needed to keep promising women and minorities in a STEM program, including the skills and work experience that will assist them in landing their first position after graduation, plus graduate with less student debt.

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About the Society for Information Management (SIM)

The Society for Information Management (SIM) (<http://simnet.org>) is the world's premier organization for IT leaders. Since 1968, SIM has inspired the minds of the most prestigious IT leaders in the industry—including CIOs, senior IT executives, prominent academicians, consultants, and other IT leaders. Today, SIM is comprised of more than 5,000 members who come together to share, network and give back to their communities through the collaboration of SIM's 42 local chapters.