

## **Society for Information Management announces 15 scholarships to propel women in IT**

SIM Women has recently announced an education-based scholarship offering 15 SIM Women and their first-time managers the chance to develop their professional, financial, and personal leadership skills through the Emerging Leader Development (ELD) program.

“Lead. Connect. Give. It’s a simple way to say who we are and what we do in the SIM community,” said Mark Taylor, CEO of SIM. “And with the ELD program, we now have, for the first time, an opportunity to serve the leaders in their earliest stages of leadership.”

Since his involvement with SIM in 2019, Taylor has searched for new ways to promote women in technology. Now, with the introduction of ELD, Taylor is excited to help advance SIM Women and strengthen the bond between SIM's different cohorts.

“One of the things that I’ve recognized is the opportunity to cross-connect these components of SIM, these various communities, to create greater value for all members,” Taylor said.

Kristen Lamoreaux, President and CEO of Lamoreaux Search and founder of SIM Women, believes that SIM Women and ELD can simultaneously build a community and a safe space for women in the computer science industry.

“We reach down to elevate up. And the hope is that we are creating a cohort of future SIM Women members,” Lamoreaux said.

One of the many challenges women face in the IT industry is a lack of representation, especially for women of color. According to McKinsey & Company, women only hold 26 percent of computer science jobs and 28 percent of senior management roles.

Lamoreaux hopes to reverse these statistics and increase women’s leadership opportunities through SIM Women and ELD. So far, there have been five graduates from the new program, with three being women.

Kerstin H., a privacy manager in the financial services industry who graduated from the ELD program said, “The program provides a multitude of resources and a spot-on comprehensive program to cover all basics to becoming a leader.”

Along with educating participants about the specific skillsets needed to become an efficient leader, ELD can provide other beneficial competencies that revolve around SIM’s three staple pillars: networking, leadership development, and philanthropy.

“Our SIM Women members are extremely focused on philanthropy. It’s core to who we are,” Lamoreaux said.

Bill Waas, the founder of ELD and board member of SIM Tampa Bay, hopes that the program will promote women IT professionals and mature their skills in becoming efficient leaders.

“From the standpoint of the candidates themselves it’s a recognition that you earn as an up-and-coming person,” Waas said regarding candidate’s inclusion. “We want to promote women within our organization, particularly identifying early leaders, and give them the skills that are necessary to be successful in their individual companies.”

Waas approached Taylor about the SIM Women Leadership scholarship, which Taylor agreed to fund. He was enthusiastic about advancing women in technology through a high-impact and effective program.

“[Bill] imagined this. And with the support of a lot of people we pulled around him and pulled together, created a really remarkable program,” Taylor said.

Lamoreaux, Waas, and Taylor are excited to offer 15 SIM Women members an exclusive opportunity to groom their first-time managers and perfect their managerial and leadership competencies, propelling them further in the IT industry.

Applications are open until mid-March, with the SIM Women program starting in early April. Click [here](#) to access the 2022 SIM Women ELD Scholarships page.