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**FOR RELEASE**

### **Registration Now Open for MCWT Website Design Contest**

**DETROIT, Aug. 30, 2012** – The [Michigan Council of Women in Technology](#) Foundation's seventh annual website design competition is approaching. High school women throughout the metro Detroit area can now register to participate. This year's theme is "survival".

Students learn creative development and technology principles during the two-month-long program. Last year, 51 teams of high school students vied for cash prizes. The competition is one of the Foundation's initiatives aimed at encouraging, advancing and retaining women in Michigan's IT community.

"I cannot begin to count how many students have said that this experience has changed their lives and helped them believe in their own abilities," said Tasha Candela, a Lake Shore High School teacher who also is a former MCWT Foundation scholarship recipient. She encouraged her students to participate and six of them were among the 24 finalists in the 2011 competition.

Students compete for the top award of \$750 in the advanced track or the top prize of \$400 in the beginners track. In 2011, MCWT Foundation awarded \$2,775 total in prizes for first, second and third places, and honorable mentions, at both the advanced and beginners levels.

MCWT Foundation will offer an optional free training session Oct. 13 at Davenport University in Livonia where participants learn about usability, design and creating a website using the freeware Kompozer. Participants must register for the class by Oct. 4.

On Dec. 8, finalists will present their [sites](#) to a panel of seasoned IT professionals and area CIOs who will evaluate them on communication, clarity, functionality, graphic appeal, user-friendly navigation and innovation.

#### **About MCWT**

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology promotes opportunity for women and girls within Michigan's technology community. The organization supports Michigan's female IT workforce, students, corporate partners, schools and the overall community with networking, corporate IT leadership development, mentoring, technology experiences for professionals and students, and funding for technology-oriented education. Its nonprofit foundation is dedicated to correcting the growing trend of gender disparity in the IT field by providing programs that support the education and orientation of young women throughout school and fostering women in various stages of their professional lives. Find more information at [www.mcwt.org](http://www.mcwt.org) and connect via [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [www.mcwtblog.org](http://www.mcwtblog.org).

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