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**FOR RELEASE**

### **MCWT Announces New President and Vice President at Signature Gala**

- ***\$306,000 raised for future programming***
- ***Ford Motor Co. presents grant for MCWT office space***

**DETROIT, Nov. 11, 2014** – The Michigan Council of Women in Technology raised \$306,000 in net proceeds for programs that help inspire and grow women in technology during its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Signature Gala on Nov. 8. With an audience of 500 IT professionals from southeast Michigan’s technology sector and beyond, the organization also announced leadership changes effective December 2014.

Cindy Warner, managing partner of cloud strategy and solutions for IBM’s Global Services business unit, will serve MCWT as president. Carey Pachla, president of Fast Switch, Ltd., will assume the newly created role of vice president. Warner replaces Maru Flores, who led the organization since 2012.

During the fundraiser, event host Ford Motor Co. presented a three-year \$75,000 grant for MCWT to lease office space in Dearborn, Mich., a significant milestone for the organization as it works to further expand its outreach.

MCWT’s strategy is to broadly reach young girls to get them to consider technology and deeply connect with women who choose the IT path—with the continued support of its 64 partners and 730 members. In 2014 alone, 18 new MCWT partners joined the cause. More than 43 companies were present at the Gala, including Diamond sponsors Cisco and AT&T.

“This signature event’s success is because of the support of our partners in our state’s IT industry, further reinforcing the business case for diversity and ongoing support for MCWT’s mission and vision,” said Vishakha Radia, vice president of partnership for MCWT.

Beginning in December, Warner and Pachla will serve a two-year term alongside the MCWT [board of directors](#). Flores will continue to support MCWT as an advisory board member.

“Maru’s visionary approach focused MCWT on how and where we can make the most impact when it comes to inspiring and growing women in Michigan’s technology community,” said Warner. “I look forward to continuing the momentum and strategically guiding MCWT in its programming and contributions to the growing IT sector.”

Prior to IBM, Warner led the IT strategy and Enterprise Architecture practice at Pricewaterhouse Coopers. She founded the company’s Women in Technology initiative. She also served as managing director for AlixPartners, LLC and senior vice president at Salesforce. She earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Seidman School of Business at Grand Valley State University with a concentration in computer science, accounting and economics. In addition to MCWT, she is involved with nonprofit Sweet Dreamzzz and ardentCause L3C, a technology company dedicated to nonprofits.

“I’ve seen MCWT grow, adapt and strengthen over the last decade,” said Pachla. “Thanks to our partners and 310 active volunteers committed to the cause, I’m confident we will continue to support the recruitment and advancement of women in IT and strengthen our economy as a result.”

Since 2003, Pachla has directed business development, client management, recruitment and operations at Fast Switch, Ltd. Her career spans more than 21 years in executive leadership and business development in the IT and logistics sectors. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree

from Western Michigan University and a Master of Business Administration from Wayne State University. She has been actively involved with MCWT for more than 11 years.

### **About MCWT**

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology strives to inspire and grow women in technology fields, with an aspirational vision to make Michigan the No. 1 state for women in technology. The organization supports Michigan's female IT workforce, students, corporate partners, schools and the overall community with networking, learning, mentoring, and technology experiences for professionals and students. It also provides programs and funds supporting 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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