

# Reignite!

## Transitioning Women In Tech

### REIGNITE! PROMPTS THE PROGRAM'S STATEWIDE EXPANSION

SOUTHFIELD, June 18, 2026 — The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation (MCWT) is recognizing the third-year success of its Reignite! program, helping women transition into Michigan's tech workforce. This year, nearly 20 women benefited from tailored professional development, mentorship and skills training designed to prepare them for careers in the evolving technology sector.

Given the positive outcomes and new funding from the State of Michigan, MCWT will expand Reignite! from a single annual cohort to three cohorts across Michigan in 2026 — in southeast Michigan, Lansing and Grand Rapids — allowing for greater accessibility and impact.

The additional cohorts will offer personalized support, including career coaching, technology training, and networking opportunities designed to meet the unique needs of women reentering or transitioning into the tech field. The expansion supports MCWT's mission to inspire and grow the number of women in technology and aligns with the State of Michigan's efforts to strengthen the state's tech industry.

Lela Johnson, a Reignite! participant, called the experience phenomenal and would highly recommend it. "The customized one-on-one support was critical, and all the suggestions worked — I landed a new job because of it."

Purnima Thapa also valued the dedicated coaching. "My coach was excellent — empathetic, supportive, and very encouraging throughout the process."

"When women return to the workforce after a career break or transition from another industry, they come back stronger and more resilient. With the right tools, support and community, they gain the confidence to navigate the transition and create lasting impact for themselves, their families and the workforce as a whole," said Lisa Riachi, Program Director for Reignite! "This program has been so impactful to so many women over the past three years, and I'm truly grateful to be part of the Reignite! family."

About MCWT Foundation: The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation is dedicated to inspiring and growing women in technology fields. Through programs, scholarships, and mentorship, MCWT aims to make Michigan the No. 1 state for women in technology.

