

CENTER FOR WOMEN AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

UMBC
AN HONORS
UNIVERSITY
IN MARYLAND

The CWIT Scholars Program seeks to address the problem of women's underrepresentation in information technology (IT), engineering and related fields, promote gender equality and enhance IT and engineering opportunities for women. CWIT Scholars are supported by a mentoring program connecting them to successful peers, business professionals, and university faculty. They participate in community activities, personal and professional development programming, internship and research experiences. Scholars take part in outreach programs to encourage girls to consider careers in IT, engineering and related fields.

CWIT SCHOLARS' EXPERIENCE

Each CWIT Scholar has a mentor from the College of Engineering and Information Technology faculty as freshmen and a successful business professional mentor as juniors and seniors. They take two courses that enhance their understanding of gender issues and explore the status, roles, images and experiences of women as well as examining issues concerning gender and technology. In their junior and senior years, CWIT Scholars participate in internships with such organizations as Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Harris Corporation and T. Rowe Price. The center sponsors activities for CWIT Scholars on a bi-weekly basis, including workshops, company tours and fieldtrips. Scholars are also encouraged to live together on the same residence hall floor in the CWIT Living-Learning Community. There, students have the chance to create friendships and support networks to see them through their college experience.

AWARD BENEFITS AND APPLICATION

Awards range from \$5,000–\$22,000 per year for four years. Students should submit an application for undergraduate admission, a separate scholarship application and two letters of recommendation, one from a science or technology teacher and one from someone familiar with the student's academic work and leadership qualities. Students are encouraged to apply by the early action admission deadline of November 1 and must submit their completed scholarship application and supporting materials by January 15. Final award decisions are announced no later than March 31. Please visit www.umbc.edu/undergraduate/learn/scholars for more information.

CWIT COMMUNITY

CWIT Scholars join a community of students, faculty, staff, alums and allies committed to helping scholars achieve their academic and professional goals and to increasing the participation of women in the IT- and engineering-related fields. CWIT Scholars have access to a wide range of programming, including academic success skills training, peer mentoring, community service opportunities, professional development workshops, internships, mentoring from supportive faculty and business leaders and a living-learning floor. CWIT Scholars step into leadership roles by acting as mentors to younger students, speaking about opportunities for women in IT and engineering, advocating for gender equality in technical fields, and living as positive role models.

— **Dr. Penny Rheingans**, Director, CWIT Scholars Program and Professor of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering



TAWNY BARIN
Information Systems

The support and sense of family from everyone in the CWIT program is incredible. It isn't just on a scholar-to-scholar level, the CWIT staff members have been great resources, providing guidance the entire time I've been here.

At one of CWIT's "Meet the Faculty" luncheons, I met Dr. Anita Komlodi, and she was the first person to expose me to the concepts and experiences of research. She encouraged me to apply for and participate in a National Science Foundation research experience for undergraduates program hosted here last summer focusing on Human-Computer Interaction, a field that basically aims to make technology much more user-friendly. I had the opportunity to work on two projects with Dr. Komlodi researching cultural implications on the use of information technology—one of which involved a spur of the moment trip to Budapest to help set up a usability study involving an online communities component to the International Children's Digital Library.

I've heard about a lot of well-known schools that don't give undergraduates as much attention or opportunities compared to their graduate students, but I feel that UMBC has given me the chance to grow more than anywhere else I could have as a scholar, athlete and individual during my undergraduate experience. The possibilities, whether in or out of an academic environment, seem endless and give you the chance to leave UMBC as a well-rounded individual.

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MAJORS

Business Technology Administration, with a technical focus
Chemical Engineering
Computer Engineering

Computer Science
Information Systems
Mechanical Engineering
Interdisciplinary Studies