



13TH ANNUAL
CENTRAL X EXCHANGE
STEMM
Awards

Show your support for women in STEMM.

Women make up only 31% of the workforce in STEMM fields.

The STEMMy Awards were created to recognize the women helping change that story right here in Kansas City.

Through Central Exchange's Women in STEMM (WiSTEMM) initiative, the STEMMys honor people making an impact across Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Medicine. Across eight award categories, we recognize women at different stages of their careers, along with the educators, companies, organizations, and champions helping create more opportunities in these fields.

What makes the STEMMys meaningful is the chance to hear from the honorees themselves. Their stories give us a deeper look at the work behind their accomplishments and help more women and girls see what could be possible for them in STEMM.

Becoming a STEMMy Awards sponsor helps carry those stories further. Your company helps create a memorable experience for this year's honorees and gives their work a larger audience. Your involvement also shows that your organization values the success of women in STEMM and wants to see that progress continue.

That partnership extends across both STEMMy celebrations: the 2026 Awards Ceremony + Gala Luncheon and the 2027 Benefactor's Roundtable + Happy Hour. Together, these events honor this year's award recipients while keeping past honorees and friends of Central Exchange connected to the STEMMys beyond the ceremony itself.

We'd love to have your company alongside us as we continue celebrating the women changing what STEMM looks like in Kansas City.

SECURE YOUR SPONSORSHIP BY OCTOBER 15, 2026 AT [CXSTEMMYS.COM](https://cxstemmys.com)

OR EMAIL KERRY GENTRY HARTNETT AT kerry@centralexchange.org

Student Achiever

LANA HESLOP | UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

DANA THALMAN | UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

The **Student Achiever STEMMy Award** recognizes a female college student currently enrolled in a Kansas or Missouri college or university who has professional aspirations in a STEMM field. The student has demonstrated academic achievements, shows exemplary student involvement in campus/ community organizations, and is a leader amongst her peers at her college or university. This award can be given to an undergrad or graduate degree student.

WiSTEMM Educator

DR. ERIN BUMANN | UMKC SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

DR. MAI ROSEMARY FU | UMKC SCHOOL OF NURSING

The **WiSTEMM Educator STEMMy Award** recognizes a full-time STEMM faculty member at any high school or college level. Based on student or fellow faculty evaluations and community accolades, her institution or community acknowledges her as an outstanding educator.

Enterprising Innovator

TRIUMFIA HOUMBIE FULKS | CODEALGO, INC.

The **Enterprising Innovator STEMMy Award** recognizes a woman business owner in a STEMM-focused company who demonstrates exemplary leadership in her business by establishing a strong vision and achieving great success. She also demonstrates industry excellence by influencing others in her STEMM field and is viewed as a key contributor in her industry.

Corporate HERO

HALLMARK CARDS, INC.

The **Corporate/Organization HERO STEMMy Award** recognizes a company, whether large or small, that promotes women in STEMM within their organization. This company actively engages in KC Metro STEMM-related activities and supports community organizations. It is highly supportive of women in their STEMM fields and provides benefits and support in the form of education, growth opportunities, flexibility, and camaraderie through initiatives such as ERGs.

2026 STEMMy Award Categories + Honorees

[SEE PAST YEARS'
HONOREES >>](#)

WiSTEMM Community Spotlight

KC STEM ALLIANCE

The **WiSTEMM Community Spotlight Award** recognizes a non-profit, professional organization, or community initiative that promotes STEMM within our region. The Spotlight recipient creates a pipeline of STEMM talent within the community, promotes STEMM initiatives, and raises awareness of STEMM in the community.

Rising Trendsetter

ABBY HARDERS | ICORIUM ENGINEERING COMPANY

The **Rising Trendsetter Award** recognizes a woman with **10 Years or Less** of professional experience in her **STEMM field** and who has demonstrated significant achievement early in her career. She is an Influencer of women in STEMM, showing peer recognition and peer support. She is an emerging leader for women in STEMM and is involved in STEMM activities in her company and/or the community.

Groundbreaking Leadership

JEN JEWERS BOWLIN | HENDERSON ENGINEERS

FAHTEEMA PARRISH | PARRISH & SONS ENGINEERING CO.

The **Groundbreaking Leadership Award** recognizes a woman in STEMM who has made significant contributions to the STEMM community throughout her **over 10-year professional career in her STEMM field**. She advocates for women in STEMM by promoting gender equity in leadership roles, supporting women entering or advancing in STEMM careers, and celebrating the achievements of women in this area. She is a comprehensive leader who casts a vision, sets and achieves goals, learns from other leaders, mentors others, influences peers, and drives innovation and change.

WiSTEMM Champion

SHARMELLE WINSETT | WECODE KC

The **WiSTEMM Champion Award** recognizes a leader, regardless of gender, working in or associated with a STEMM field or organization. These individuals are bridge builders who envision gender equality and take action to realize that vision. They advocate for women in STEMM, empowering them to achieve their full potential. They offer support as women enter or advance in their STEMM careers and actively promote them within their workplaces and communities. They are true champions for others.

13th Annual STEMMy Awards Ceremony + Gala Luncheon

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026 | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM | FIORELLA'S EVENT SPACE

Join Central Exchange for our annual gala luncheon as we come together to honor the remarkable women making an impact across science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine in Kansas City. Hear the stories of our 2026 STEMMy Award Honorees and get to know the women behind the accomplishments. Together, we'll celebrate all they have achieved and make this year's STEMMy Awards a memorable occasion for each of them.



HONORARY CO-CHAIR

RACHEL HACK MERLO

Head of Government and
Community Affairs
GFiber
2024 Corporate HERO



HONORARY CO-CHAIR

DR. LESLIE A. MICHAUD

Board-Certified Physician and
Regenerative Medicine Specialist
Motus Biologics and Sports Medicine



FEATURING KEYNOTE:

TAMMY BUCKNER

Chief Executive Officer
WeCode KC
2023 WiSTEMM Champion



EVENT EMCEED BY:

TERRI THOMPSPON

Executive Director
Museum at Prairiefire
2025 Rising Trendsetter

Benefactor's Roundtable + Happy Hour

2027 DATE TBD

Past STEMMy Award honorees and friends of Central Exchange come together at the Benefactor's Roundtable for a gathering centered on connection and shared perspectives. Hear directly from past honorees during a meaningful panel discussion, then stay for drinks and appetizers with others who care deeply about supporting women in STEM and helping the next generation see what's possible.

[Click here](#) to see the 2026 Benefactor's Roundtable in action.

Celebrate the
STEMMy Award
Honorees.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum

STEMMy AWARDS SPONSOR

\$15,000

Unlimited

- **30 In-Person Tickets** to the 2026 STEMMy Awards Ceremony.
- **30 In-Person Tickets** to the 2027 STEMMy Awards Benefactor's Roundtable Discussion.
- Opportunity to **provide comments from the stage** at the Awards Gala Luncheon.
- Receive a **Full-Page Advertisement** in the program provided at the luncheon.
- Recognized as the **Platinum Sponsor** in all **Digital Marketing**, including invitations, the event webpage, and social media.
- Recognized as the **Platinum Sponsor** in all printed and digital marketing materials **at both celebration events**.

Gold

STEMMy AWARDS SPONSOR

\$10,000

Unlimited

- **25 In-Person Tickets** to the 2026 STEMMy Awards Ceremony.
- **25 In-Person Tickets** to the 2027 STEMMy Awards Benefactor's Roundtable Discussion.
- Receive a **Full-Page Advertisement** in the program provided at the luncheon.
- Recognized as a **Gold Sponsor** in all **Digital Marketing**, including invitations, the event webpage, and social media.
- Recognized as a **Gold Sponsor** in all printed and digital marketing materials **at both celebration events**.

Silver

STEMMy AWARDS SPONSOR

\$5,500

Unlimited

- **20 In-Person Tickets** to the 2026 STEMMy Awards Ceremony.
- **20 In-Person Tickets** to the 2027 STEMMy Awards Benefactor's Roundtable Discussion.
- Receive a **Half-Page Advertisement** in the program provided at the luncheon.
- Recognized as a **Silver Sponsor** in all **Digital Marketing**, including invitations, the event webpage, and social media.
- Recognized as a **Silver Sponsor** in all printed and digital marketing materials **at both celebration events**.

Bronze

STEMMy AWARDS SPONSOR

\$3,500

Unlimited

- **15 In-Person Tickets** to the 2026 STEMMy Awards Ceremony.
- **15 In-Person Tickets** to the 2027 STEMMy Awards Benefactor's Roundtable Discussion.
- Recognized as a **Bronze Sponsor** in all **Digital Marketing**, including invitations, the event webpage, and social media.
- Recognized as a **Bronze Sponsor** in all printed and digital marketing materials **at both celebration events**.

Copper

STEMMy AWARDS SPONSOR

\$1,500

Unlimited

- **10 In-Person Tickets** to the 2026 STEMMy Awards Ceremony.
- **10 In-Person Tickets** to the 2027 STEMMy Awards Benefactor's Roundtable Discussion.
- Recognized as a **Copper Sponsor** in all printed and digital marketing materials **at both celebration events**.

CXSTEMMYS.COM

CENTRAL  EXCHANGE

**CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING
WOMEN + COMPANIES IN STEM!**

STEMMY Awards



BECOME A STEMMY SPONSOR AT [CXSTEMMYS.COM](https://cxstemmys.com)