



Computer Mania Day Program Earns Global Recognition

***High-Technology Fun Day for Middle
School Girls in Maryland Honored by
International Forum***

Baltimore, MD - April 18, 2008 - Computer Mania Day (CMD) has been named as a finalist in the education category of the prestigious Stockholm Challenge Award. The Stockholm Challenge 2008 features a six category Award for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development projects. The six award categories include Culture, Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health and Public Administration. The 145 finalists were chosen from over 2000 registrations, and winners in each category will be announced during the Gala Evening in the Stockholm City Hall in Sweden on May 22nd.

Those who succeed in the Stockholm Challenge earn a valuable addition to their brand. Finalists and winners in the Stockholm Challenge Award are offered a share in a global reputation gathered from many places; from the people of Sweden and their commitment to independence, equality, social and human progress, from the Advisory Board which includes luminaries such as Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus and Sun Microsystems's John Gage and from the breadth and depth of experience of its international jury.

“It is an incredible honor to be selected as a finalist for such an impressive award and is a testament to all the hard work, dedication and contributions of so many who share a common mission of increasing the participation and leadership of girls and women in the fields of engineering and information technology,” said Claudia Morrell, executive director of CWIT and chair of the event. “It is inspiring to know our program has attracted the attention of domestic and international leaders in technology education – our shared challenge is a global one.”

CMD is an annual day of **free, hands-on, high-tech, fun activities for adults and kids** hosted by [UMBC's Center for Women and Information Technology \(CWIT\)](#). The half-day event helps to get hundreds of girls interested in technology and computing careers while helping parents and teachers learn how to help prepare their kids for college and technical careers and keep them safe online. [Computer Mania Day](#) is on **Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Admission to the event is free, but registration is required in advance. Adults and children should visit www.computer-mania.info to register.

The local success of CMD is made possible through the support and partnerships with respected organizations and leaders in education such as the Maryland Department of Education (MSDE). “I am thrilled to be involved as a key speaker in this year’s event. I continue to encourage girls to persevere in their studies to achieve their career goals. We must strive to have equity in all fields, including those that are technology-based. I am delighted to know that each attending student has taken the next step in career preparation by engaging in a world-recognized learning experience like Computer Mania Day,” shares Nancy Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, “The Maryland Department of Education is committed to supporting and creating meaningful and relevant technology-based programs for students, especially girls, so our state can remain competitive in this fast-growing industry sector.”

This year's event sponsors supporting Computer Mania Day and the overall directive to increase the presence of women in information technology are Northrop Grumman, DELL, XEROX, Lockheed Martin, Cisco Systems, Booz Allen Hamilton, Constellation Energy, BR MarketLaunch, Comcast, Maryland Women in Technology, MSDE, National Security Agency, Verizon and our many academic partners.

For more information, please go to www.computer-mania.info.