

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY RECOGNISED FOR INNOVATIVE WORK

Some of Australia's most accomplished females forging careers in science and technology will gather at Brisbane City Hall this Friday night (30 August) to learn the winners of this year's Women in Technology (WiT) Awards.

More than 150 high achieving women, including medical researchers, inventors, scientists, computer engineers, start-up innovators and technologists, have been nominated in 12 categories.

"I'm excited to be in the same room as so many of Queensland's brightest minds," said Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur Leanne Kemp, who will be delivering the gala event's keynote address.

"In August, I've spent most of the month travelling around regional Queensland, and it's been energizing and incredible to meet with so many innovators and entrepreneurs. In life, it's not what you get but what you become and the nominees for this year's Women in Technology Awards have certainly become part of our impressive Queensland-wide community of innovators. I applaud all of them for their talent, commitment and success in pushing boundaries and finding solutions to real-world challenges.

"As a female founder, CEO and tech pioneer, I know the challenges and barriers that many women face. And while we should never underestimate the power of a well-made decision, we also know that gender bias can often blind some to acknowledging the great contributions of so many women in this industry. It's thanks to organisations such as Women in Technology that collectively we encourage all women to pursue their goals, develop new ideas and take a chance," said Ms Kemp.

Almost 700 people, including Queensland Minister for Digital Technology Mr Nick De Brenni, will attend the awards which are now in their 22nd year.

Categories include ICT Outstanding Achievement, ICT Professional, ICT Rising Star, ICT Young Achiever, Life Sciences Outstanding Achievement, Life Sciences Research Leader, Life Sciences Rising Star, Life Sciences Young Achiever, Entrepreneurial and Employer of Choice for Corporates and SMEs. A Community Award has been introduced for the first time.

WiT Co-Presidents Joanna Field and Dr Claudia Giurgiuman said the awards had attracted a record field. Nominations were outstanding so deciding on winners was a huge challenge for the judges.

Part proceeds from every awards gala ticket will be donated to STANDBYU, a Brisbane tech-based non-for-profit harnessing the power of wearable technology to change lives for vulnerable children and women experiencing domestic violence.