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FIRST Chesapeake Robotics, Leidos, and Dominion Energy, honor five Outstanding Women in STEM

Richmond, VA. February 14, 2023 – Julie A. Rosen, Ph.D., retired Leidos Chief Scientist and Mathematician, was honored today with the Reaching for the Stars: Outstanding Women in STEM Award for the fifth annual Women in STEM celebration hosted by *FIRST* Chesapeake Robotics and sponsored by Leidos. *FIRST* Chesapeake recognized the work of Dr. Julie A. Rosen which has contributed to many initiatives and most recently led the technical approach for proving the benefit of an academic collaborator's machine learning model to forecast suicide risk among military members and veterans. She also has advised corporate technical leadership on basic and applied research into intelligence automation and AI/ML modeling and methods. She is a mentor and ally for women in STEM and we are thrilled to honor her for all her achievements.

FIRST Chesapeake honors women in STEM through recognition, scholarship awards, and advocacy. These events are sponsored by Leidos in partnership with Dominion Energy and Canon Virginia. This award and event mark the culmination of our Women in STEM program recognition and the beginning of our advocacy and support experiences within the competition season.

“Dr. Rosen leads by example and is an outstanding role model for young women pursuing STEM careers,” said Robert Franceschini, Deputy Chief Technology Officer at Leidos, and a *FIRST* Chesapeake Board Member. “From her original technical contributions in inference modeling to her tireless advocacy for STEM skills development, Dr. Rosen’s commitment to cultivating innovation is shaping a new generation of leaders. We are thrilled that Dr. Rosen has been selected for this great honor and are proud to support programs like *FIRST* Chesapeake’s Women in STEM Awards. Their work highlighting inclusion and innovation, two of Leidos’ core values, is having a real impact solving the world’s biggest challenges.”

Scott Turnbull, Executive Director of *FIRST* Chesapeake, noted, “At *FIRST* Chesapeake, we are dedicated to providing life-changing robotics programs to our middle and high school students, and creating an inclusive environment for our students, alumni, mentors and volunteers in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. We are thrilled to be honoring Dr. Rosen for her accomplishments in promoting an equitable and philanthropic environment for women and others who are interested in the field of STEM.”

FIRST Chesapeake proudly boasts a 40% female participation rate among its team members, volunteers, and team mentors. In order to foster ever-increasing female participation and recognition for its female team members, *FIRST* Chesapeake has partnered with Dominion Energy which sponsored the award scholarships to four outstanding young women associated with *FIRST* Chesapeake teams. The finalists included Morgan McMillan of VA, Suzu Paudel of VA, Olivia Sun of VA, and Natalie Warne of MD.

As the primary Scholarship recipient, Olivia Sun will receive a \$2,000 scholarship sponsored by Dominion Energy to the school of her choice. Olivia hopes to combine her passion for humanities and policy making with her STEM experiences to promote women in STEM in an interdisciplinary way. Three additional finalists included highly accomplished young ladies. Natalie Warne uses her STEM skills to educate and advocate for students with disabilities to be involved in *FIRST* programming and hopes to be an educator in the future. Suzu Paudel aims to break down barriers for girls in STEM. She hopes she can one day use her STEM skills to design a robotic pen that can assist those with Parkinson's to continue to communicate with writing. Morgan McMillan is an advocate for diversity in STEM fields and *FIRST* programs. She hopes to combine her love of STEM with service to her country. These young ladies are highly accomplished and illustrate how *FIRST* programs help promote women in STEM.

About *FIRST*® Chesapeake

Virginia *FIRST* dba *FIRST* Chesapeake is an independent non-profit that brings STEM-based leadership programs to middle and high school students in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. More than 8,000 students participate in the 430+ teams administered by *FIRST* Chesapeake. To learn more about *FIRST* Chesapeake, go to www.firstchesapeake.org. Follow Us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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