Rocky Mountain Celebration of Women in Computing

BY DEB GOODKIN

We were thrilled to be part of the [Rocky Mountain Celebration of Women in Computing Conference](), September 29-30, 2022, here in Boulder, Colorado! The Rocky Mountain Celebration of Women in Computing (RMCWiC) is a regional meeting modeled after the highly successful international Grace Hopper Celebration. The goal of RMCWiC is to encourage the research and career interests of local women in computing. RMCWiC has been held every two years since 2008 with a pause in 2020

RMCWiC offers an opportunity for students to present their research and to network with leaders from academia, government, and industry. In this way, RMCWiC provides a unique opportunity for technical women from Colorado and neighboring states to come

Just a few years ago, we were gaining momentum on showcasing FreeBSD at women in computing conferences and university groups. But that came to a standstill when Covid hit. We are now kickstarting that effort to attend more of these types of events, from meetups to celebration of women in computer conferences. So, I was thrilled when I saw the local Rocky Mountain Celebration of Women in Computing was taking place right here in Boulder, Colorado in September!

First, I love these events, because they are smaller and it's easier to talk to attendees about FreeBSD. This event brought in around 300 attendees from Colorado and surrounding states. I always love the energy of young folks as they meet others with similar interests in computing, while they learn from amazing role models in various technology fields.

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I had the opportunity to give a talk on Open Source and why people should get involved. Of course, I used FreeBSD as an example of an open source project they should consider. After my talk, there was a career fair, where Justin Gibbs and I staffed a FreeBSD table, giving us the opportunity to talk with many of the attendees about FreeBSD. It was crazy loud, and everyone was wearing masks, so it was difficult, but we made it work. We had lots of attendees stop by our table to talk and ask us questions.

All in all, I'd say this was a great event for the Project, the students, and the Foundation. We always appreciate an opportunity to educate people about FreeBSD and encourage them to contribute to the project.

In 2023, we will be identifying a few women in computing conferences that we'd like to attend. Let us know if there is one you are familiar with that we should attend. Or maybe you'd like to present at one and staff a table in their career fair. We're here to support you if you choose that path!

DEB GOODKIN is the Executive Director of the FreeBSD Foundation. She's thrilled to be in her 15th year at the Foundation and is proud of her hardworking and dedicated team. She spent over 20 years in the data storage industry in engineering development, technical sales, and technical marketing. When not working, you'll find her on her road or mountain bike, running, hiking with her dogs, skiing the slopes of Colorado, or reading a good book.