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All Things Open Conference To Focus on Women in Technology and Open Source

Lunch panel session to feature top female technologists and decision makers in world

Raleigh, NC, October 9, 2014 – Some of the top female technologists and decision makers in the world will participate in a panel discussion on Thursday, October 23 at the second annual All Things Open conference. The session is being made possible by Adobe and Opensource.com.

While Information Technology (IT) is one of the fastest growing sectors in the economy with nearly 1.4 million job openings by 2020, and as many as two-thirds of these positions possibly going unfilled due a lack of qualified candidates, women remain vastly underrepresented. For example, women account for only 20% of all software engineers, 23% of all computer programmers and 39.5% of all web developers, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. In addition, it's estimated just 11% of all open source contributors are women.

The session, moderated by DeLisa Alexander, executive vice president chief people officer at Red Hat, will address questions such as why the underrepresentation exists, why it's important that more females choose to go into technology and open source, and what can be done to encourage it.

Featured panel members will include:

- Estelle Weyl – Internationally published author, trainer and speaker. As a UI Engineer she's consulted on projects with some of the largest companies in the U.S. like Samsung, Yahoo! and Apple.
- Karen Sandler - Executive Director of the Software Freedom Conservancy, the nonprofit home of dozens of free software projects. She was previously the Executive Director of the GNOME Foundation. In partnership with the GNOME Foundation, Karen co-organizes the award winning Outreach Program for Women.
- Elizabeth Joseph – Automation and Tools Engineer with Hewlett Packard working on the OpenStack Infrastructure team. She is also a member of the Ubuntu Community Council and co-author of the 8th edition of The Official Ubuntu Book.
- Erica Stanley – Founder of Acire Studios and co-founder of Women Who Code Atlanta network where she organizes monthly tech talks, workshops, hack nights and networking events for women.
- Dr. Megan Squire – Associate Professor of Computing Sciences at Elon University. She teaches data mining, web development, and database design and development and is the co-founder and current leader of the FLOSSmole, FLOSShub, and FLOSSdata projects.

The conference will take place at the Raleigh Convention Center in downtown Raleigh, NC. To register, go to <http://allthingsopen.org/register-now>. Please note special registration is available for this session only but the registration deadline is Wednesday, October 15. The cost is \$25, which includes lunch.

All Things Open

The 2013 conference was attended by more than 750 people from 25 states and 3 countries. More than 1,000 are expected in 2014, including nearly every leading technology company in the U.S. Just a few of those companies include Red Hat, Adobe, Facebook, PayPal, Docker, Twitter, GitHub, Cisco, Mirantis, Qualcomm, IBM, Elasticsearch, Mozilla, Hewlett Packard, Cloudera, Citrix, Microsoft, MongoDB, Oracle, Acquia, Chef, Sonatype, Samsung, Mulesoft, Bitly, Percona, and many, many more.