

Reshma Saujani Named 2015 Recipient of Forbes Impact Award in Leadership, Presented by Northwestern Mutual

Founder and CEO of Girls Who Code Honored at 3rd Annual Forbes Women's Summit

MILWAUKEE, June 11, 2015 – ForbesWoman, along with [Northwestern Mutual](#), has named Reshma Saujani the 2015 recipient of the Forbes Impact Award in Leadership. The award honors a woman who is investing in and making a meaningful change for the next generation of women. It was presented at the 3rd Annual Forbes Women's Summit in New York City June 10.

Saujani is the 39-year-old founder and CEO of Girls Who Code, an organization launched in 2012 with a mission to close the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math, known as STEM. The program focuses on empowering, educating and equipping girls with the computing skills to succeed in a high-tech world. Saujani accepted the award during a special presentation at the summit, themed *Power Redefined: Transforming the Rules of Engagement*.

"I accepted the Forbes Impact Award in Leadership on behalf of all the girls at Girls Who Code who are fearless and resilient. They are true change agents who will use their technical skills to build products that will have a lasting impact on our world," said Saujani. "Their commitment to closing the gender gap in computer science inspires me every day. I am honored to receive this award on their behalf."

Launched in 2012, Girls Who Code pairs intensive instruction in robotics, web design and mobile development with high-touch mentorship from some of the industry's top female engineers and entrepreneurs. The national program has grown to more than 214 clubs in schools, libraries and communities across the country and includes a Summer Immersion Program in nine cities nationwide.

"We were extremely impressed and inspired by Reshma's leadership, determination and vision," said Rebekah Barsch, vice president of planning and sales at Northwestern Mutual. "Through her tireless work in public advocacy and her commitment to Girls Who Code, Reshma truly is changing the lives of girls today by showing what it means to invest in our next generation of women."

Northwestern Mutual is committed to empowering women to achieve their goals – in life and in finances. The company recently revealed key insights about women and finances from a study done in partnership with Forbes Insights. The findings are featured [online](#) and in a special women's edition of Forbes magazine this June. In addition, Northwestern Mutual's multi-year campaign, [#WomanWithAPlan](#), celebrates the accomplishments of women who have found success through planning, dedication and preparation. The company also has an annual tour, *Inspiring Leaders: The Power of You*, a multi-city event featuring inspiring women leaders, panel discussions and networking.

Presented by Northwestern Mutual, this year's Forbes Women's Summit brought together more than 250 leaders in business, politics, technology, media, philanthropy, fashion and entertainment to forge partnerships, find solutions and take actions to make the world a better place. Speakers included Jessica Alba, Ina Garten, Chelsea Handler, Ivanka Trump, Sara Blakely, Kay Krill, Debra Lee, Jennifer Hyman, Gayle King, Soledad O'Brien, Tracy Andersen, Rosalind Brewer, Roya Mahboob, Ramona Pierson, Merlanne Verveer and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey.

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