

Winning Women in IT

On 1st November at the HQ of the BCS in London we were treated to a truly inspiring evening hosted jointly by the BCS Chartered Institute for IT - Women's Group and Women in Technology.

Susanna Way (Personal, Professional & Business Coach from Way More Than) and Maggie Berry (Managing Director of Women in Technology) directed proceedings on the night.

The following finalists and winners from the 2011 CWT everywoman in Technology Awards kindly gave us their time to tell us their stories, share their experiences and give a taste of the impact that this whole process has had on them:

Juliet Tzabar, Managing Director, Plug-in Media
(Finalist in Entrepreneur of the Year)

Naomi Chayen, Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Imperial College London
(Winner of Innovator of the Year)

Stephanie Nicolaou, ICT Systems Analyst, Agusta Westland Helicopters Ltd
(Winner of Rising Star of the Year)

Bernadette Wightman, Managing Director, Partner Organisation, Cisco UK & Ireland, Cisco
(Winner Business Leader of the Year Award)

Please see attached copies of Juliet's and Stephanie's presentations together with the 'link' one, which includes the timetable and how to get yourself or someone else, nominated.

After the event we asked if we could have one final top tip from each of the presenters, and so far we have:

From Juliet: Don't dwell on what you can't do but promote what you can.

From Naomi: Be proactive and don't be afraid to ask people for advice – most are very willing to help especially if they see that you take the initiative.

From Stephanie: Belief
Perseverance
Pro-activeness
Mentorship

It is about having that good idea, the ability to think different, the fact that you have something inspiring to say. Being proactive will ultimately provide the opportunities for you to come out on top and further your careers. Have belief in your own voice and put yourself forward.

Sadly Leesa Soulodre, who was due to attend, could not make it back from Switzerland in time, but she too has given us her top tip to pass on:

From Leesa: A quote that inspires me from Thomas Edison: Opportunity + Action = Success "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

(Leesa was nominated for the Innovator of the year award, along with Naomi)

We know that following the event several people have been inspired to put themselves forward, which is great news! If you are wavering, looking back over these notes or taking time to look at the presentations, might just persuade you to go for it!!

Thank you to all of you who attended the event (including Matt – who braved it amongst a sea of women!) – on behalf of the BCS Chartered Institute for IT - Women's Group and Women in Technology, we hope that you will come again to future such events.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 25th November – so if you are considering doing this then please do not delay!