



# News Release

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## ECBC Employee Named “Technology Rising Star”

**Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.** — Michelle Goddard, a mechanical engineer at the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), is among 111 women recognized by the Career Communications Group and *Women of Color* magazine as a “Technology Rising Star.” Awarded annually, the industry-recognized “Technology Rising Star” award is presented to young, minority women working in the technology arena who have demonstrated extraordinary achievement in their workplace and communities.

Goddard, along with the other honorees, will be honored during the 14th Annual Women of Color STEM Conference in Dallas on Friday, Oct. 30 during the Technology Recognition Luncheon. The prestigious luncheon is usually a sold-out event during a conference that attracts approximately 5,000 participants.

“I can’t say that I enjoy the spotlight, but I am flattered that such distinguished people believe in me the way they do,” Goddard said.

And while Goddard seems to be surprised by the honor, her colleagues view this latest accolade as well deserved.

“In working with Michelle during the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) recruitment fairs and as a member of the Commander's Diversity Advisory Committee, it quickly became clear that she is a stand out,” said Katie Blanding, Ph.D., the RDECOM educational outreach program coordinator who helped to nominate Goddard for the award. “The Technology Rising Star award is an appropriate recognition of her achievements and will encourage her to soar to greater heights.”

In addition to her regular job duties, Goddard got involved in student mentorship programs, recruiting events, diversity initiatives and outreach activities almost immediately after arriving at the Center in 2005 from Loyola College in Maryland.

“When I got involved in the Center’s Diversity Advisory Committee, I knew I wanted to leverage my position to encourage students to pursue careers in science and engineering, so I started the ball rolling on the inaugural session of the Minority Undergraduate Summer Internship Program (MUSIP),” said Goddard.

Trying to get MUSIP off the ground put Goddard in front of some of the biggest decision makers in the Center. And while her mentor, ECBC Engineering Director Alvin “AJay” Thornton, cautioned her to pace herself, Goddard wasn’t able to do anything but think big.

“Michelle approaches everything that is thrown at her with zeal and a focus on perfection,” Thornton said.

Eventually, Goddard was able to get all the right people involved and excited about the program, which recently concluded with a graduation ceremony this month.

Goddard’s equal focus on career development has earned her awards for her expert testing and evaluation performance on Army masks as well as a master’s degree in engineering management from Drexel University in Pennsylvania. But just because Goddard has achieved a lot in her short career, doesn’t mean she plans on letting up anytime soon. Outside the lab, she is working toward earning a Professional Engineer’s License for the state of Maryland while furthering her efforts to secure an Army Acquisition Level II Certification in Systems Planning Research Development and Engineering.

“Michelle has done a lot in her four years at ECBC,” said Thornton. “She is always looking for ways to think and work outside of the box. She has volunteered her time, received her graduate degree and kept an eye out for new opportunities. I believe this award will serve as a spring board towards even greater success in the future.”

*ECBC is the Army’s principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and field operations. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for the warfighter and for our national defense, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is a U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command laboratory located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our Web site at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil> or call (410) 436-7118.*

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