Date: September 8, 2013

To: IEEE colleagues

From: Lynn Conway and Leandra Vicci

Subject: Co-signing letter re proposed changes in the IEEE Code of Ethics

Dear IEEE colleague,

The IEEE recently announced proposed changes to the IEEE’s Code of Ethics:

<http://theinstitute.ieee.org/briefings/business/proposed-changes-to-ieee-code-of-ethics>

The changes are under discussion by all major IEEE Boards, and the Board of Directors will engage in final considerations at its November 2013 meeting.

The proposal involves changing: “To treat fairly all persons regardless of such factors as race, religion, gender, disability, age or national origin,” to “To treat fairly all persons and to not engage in discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, or sexual orientation.”

Due to an apparent oversight, the proposal is inconsistent with current practices in our high-technology industries and our research universities, and also with the IEEE’s own Policy on Non-discrimination:

<http://www.ieee.org/p9-26.html>

We have suggested correcting the oversight as follows: “To treat fairly all persons and to not engage in discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression”, as discussed in our letter of 3 September to Directors :

[http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/CSE/IEEE/Codes&Policies/Letter\_re\_Ethics\_Code\_9-03-13.pdf](http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/CSE/IEEE/Codes%26Policies/Letter_re_Ethics_Code_9-03-13.pdf)

If you are interested in encouraging this correction, please send us an e-mail of support as a co-signer of that letter (including name, title, IEEE member-level), and/or send comments of your own to IEEE Director Parviz Famouri at pfamouri@ieee.org or IEEE Director Karen S. Pedersen at kspedersen@ieee.org, on or before 7 November 2013.

We will include additional co-signers in the online-updates to this letter, as we receive their e-mails.

Sincerely,

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