**Lynn Conway**

Professor Emerita of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

University of Michigan

Lynn Conway is an internationally renowned research engineer, educator and LGBTQ advocate. As a young researcher at IBM in the 60s, she made pioneering innovations in computer architecture.

Sadly, IBM fired Lynn in 1968 upon learning she was undergoing gender transition. A gritty survivor, she restarted her career in “stealth-mode” after completing her transition.

While working at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) in the 1970s, Lynn innovated breakthrough methods that dramatically simplified the design of silicon chips – triggering the microelectronics ‘VLSI revolution’ in Silicon Valley and forever transforming computing and information technology.

Lynn went on to serve as Assistant Director for Strategic Computing at DARPA, and then joined the University of Michigan in 1985 as Professor of EECS and Associate Dean of Engineering.

Quietly coming out upon retiring in 1999, Lynn evolved her trans-support website, *lynnconway.com*, into a multilingual beacon of hope for transgender people worldwide.

In 2012, she published a memoir finally revealing how – closeted and hidden behind the scenes – she conceived ideas and orchestrated events that disruptively changed an entire industry.

More recently Lynn’s investigated how her seminal contributions became “invisible” over the decades, as if erased from history. Today she reflects on deep lessons she’s learned regarding society’s blindness to contributions made by “others”.

Lynn’s received many high honors for her contributions including election to the National Academy of Engineering and four honorary doctorates.

Her Motto: *"If you want to change the future, start living as if you're already there!"*