IBM **Research** Distinguished Speaker Series

Overview

Title: A Conversation with Lynn Conway - Part of the IBM Research Distinguished Speaker Series

Duration: 1 hour, 9 minutes

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conway@umich.edu

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Summary

In June, as we celebrate Pride Month as well as welcome our 2021 Class of IBM Interns, IBM Lifetime
Achievement Award recipient Lynn Conway will be hosted by Darío Gil, Senior Vice President and Director of
IBM Research, and Jeff Welser, COO of IBM Research and Vice President of Exploratory Science and
University Collaborations, for a Fireside Chat panel including a few of our interns. Lynn will extend an address

to the IBM Interns and the IBM community, and offer personal reflections, lessons, and wisdom gained from her distinguished career and history of advocacy for transgender rights.

Speakers
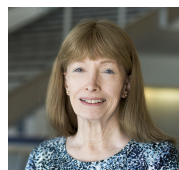
Lynn Conway
Professor Emerita of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Lynn Conway is Professor Emerita of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is renowned both as a tech trailblazer and as a transgender pioneer.

Last year, Lynn was presented with an IBM Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her extraordinary body of technical achievements, both during her time at IBM, and throughout her entire career. Quite simply, Lynn has helped define the modern computing industry.

After earning her BS and MSEE from Columbia University, Lynn joined IBM Research in 1964, where she made foundational contributions to superscalar computer architecture. Lynn worked in "stealth mode" after transitioning and her departure from IBM, beginning her career all over again.

Joining Xerox Palo Alto Research Center in 1973, Lynn invented scalable MOS design rules and simplified methods for silicon chip design, was principal author of the famous "Mead-Conway" VLSI text and pioneered the teaching of these methods at MIT – launching a world-wide revolution in VLSI microelectronic system design in the 1980's.

Lynn also invented an ARPAnet based e-commerce infrastructure for rapid chip-prototyping in 1979, spawning the modern "fabless design" plus "silicon foundry" industry model for semiconductor design and manufacturing. Lynn joined the University of Michigan in 1985 as Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Associate Dean of Engineering, where she continued her distinguished career. In 1999, she revealed her past history and has since been a major advocate for transgender rights.

Lynn has won many awards including the Wetherill Medal of the Franklin Institute, the Computer Pioneer Award of the IEEE Computer Society, induction into the Computer History Museum's Hall of Fellows, election to the National Academy of Engineering, and four honorary doctorates. Awarded the 2015 James Clerk Maxwell Medal by the IEEE and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, her citation read: Lynn Conway's work has provided the underpinnings for innovations, discoveries and achievements in every area of scientific and humanitarian study.

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