**OUEC2016: Introducing Lynn Conway** (< 3min)

Lynn Conway is Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Emerita, at the University of Michigan. She has earned international acclaim as a high-technology pioneer, techno-social paradigm shifter and LGBTQ advocate.

Lynn made foundational innovations in computer architecture as a young IBM researcher in the 1960s. Sadly, IBM’s top executives fired her in 1968 on learning that she was undergoing gender transition. A gritty survivor back in those dark times, Lynn completed her transition and started her career all over again as a woman in “stealth-mode.”

Lynn went on to work at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center in the 1970s, where she innovated breakthrough abstract-methods for very large scale silicon-chip design (“VLSI”). Her methods rapidly spread through university EECS courses all around the world, launching the 1980s microelectronics revolution in Silicon Valley and beyond.

Lynn went on to serve as Assistant Director for Strategic Computing at DARPA. At the height of the Cold War, Lynn launched DARPA’s Strategic Computing Initiative, a major 1980's effort to build the technology-base for modern “intelligent weapons systems.” Lynn joined the University of Michigan as Professor of EECS and Associate Dean of Engineering in 1985, where she continued her distinguished career.

Upon retiring in 1999, Lynn came out via the internet and rapidly evolved a trans-support website, [lynnconway.com](http://www.lynnconway.com), into a multilingual beacon of hope and encouragement for trans people worldwide. She lives with her engineer husband Charles Rogers on their 24-acre homestead in rural Michigan. They’ve been together for 28 years.

Lynn has earned many high honors and awards for her research, including election to the *National Academy of Engineering*, Secretary of Defense *Meritorious Civilian Service Award*, NOGLSTP’s *Engineer of the Year* award, IEEE Computer Society’s *Computer Pioneer Award*, membership in the Computer History Museum’s *Hall of Fellows*, IEEE’s & Royal Society of Edinburgh’s *James Clerk Maxwell Medal*, and three honorary doctorates.

Lynn’s motto: "*If you want to change the future, start living as if you're already there!*"