**Lynn Conway**

After earning her BS and MSEE at Columbia University’s School of Engineering and Applied Science, Lynn joined IBM Research in 1964, where she made foundational contributions to computer architecture.

At Xerox Palo Alto Research Center in the 1970s, Lynn invented scalable design rules for “very large scale integrated” silicon chip design (VLSI) and became co-author of the seminal textbook *Introduction to VLSI Systems*.

Lynn pioneered the teaching of her new methods while serving as a Visiting Associate Professor of EECS at M.I.T. Her teachings rapidly spread to over 100 universities, launching a worldwide revolution in VLSI microchip design during the 1980's.

Lynn also invented and widely demonstrated an electronic-commerce system for rapid chip prototyping that established the "fabless-design + silicon-foundry" paradigm of silicon chip design and manufacturing.

As Assistant Director for Strategic Computing at DARPA, Lynn launched the Strategic Computing Initiative, DoD’s major 1980's effort to expand the technology-base for modern intelligent weapons systems.

She then joined the University of Michigan as Professor of EECS and Associate Dean of Engineering, where she continued her distinguished career. Now retired, she lives with her engineer husband Charlie on their 24-acre homestead in rural Michigan. They’ve been together 26 years.

Lynn is a Fellow of the IEEE and a member of the Computer History Museum Hall of Fellows and the National Academy of Engineering. She’s received many awards for her work, including the Wetherill Medal of the Franklin Institute, the Computer Pioneer Award of the IEEE Computer Society, the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and honorary doctorates from Trinity College and Illinois Institute of Technology.

In 2015 Lynn was awarded the James Clerk Maxwell Medal by the IEEE and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Her citation included these words:

*“Lynn Conway’s work has provided the underpinnings for innovations, discoveries and achievements in every area of scientific and humanitarian study.”*