Accelerating & Advancing

The Women Influence Chicago Accelerator promotes the advancement of female technologists through a four-month cohort that ensures women will learn to grow and advocate for themselves, leading to parity in their companies.

There are currently less than twenty female CTOs in the Chicago tech community. By investing in the next generation of female technologists, the ITA and Women Influence Chicago believe we can significantly increase that number.

"MEN GET PROMOTED ON POTENTIAL. WOMEN GET PROMOTED ON PERFORMANCE."

The program will take place over four months and is composed of:

- **Classroom Learning (40%)**: Participants will have four monthly classes, one each month. They will follow-up on these classes in their facilitated forum and through one assignment to check-in on with mentors. The program will culminate in a career pathing discussion with CTOs and VPs of Engineering.

- **Facilitated Forum (20%)**: Participants will learn how to act as agents for their companies by developing skills beyond their functions, while also developing a sustainable support system outside of their companies through a peer-driven two-hour monthly forum. Individual goals will be reviewed as a group on a monthly basis to increase accountability.

- **Mentoring (20%)**: Each participant will meet with 2-3 mentors, and choose a “Super Mentor” to meet with regularly before and after the program. Cadence is up to the participants involved.

- **Coaching (20%)**: These 30-minute monthly sessions are designed to help the participants advance their personal goals and receive formal “Career Coaching”.

**Program Investment**

$3000 / participant for ITA Members
$5000 / participant for non-members

A limited number of scholarships are available for women of color. Please contact us at accelerator@illinoistech.org for application information.
## Participant Profile

The Women Influence Chicago Accelerator is designed for mid-career female-identifying technologists with clear technical functions across:

- Software engineering and development
- Data engineering and data science
- UX/UI
- Technical product management

While the average years of experience will range from 3 - 8, the most important factor is that participants will have been exhibiting exceptional promise in their current roles but need support in how to translate that promise into promotions or increased responsibilities

## Get Started

Apply online at illinoistech.org/WIC/Accelerator.

Contact us at accelerator@illinoistech.org for more information.

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<th>Title</th>
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| Level Up: How to Develop Your Best Professional Self | • Developing Your Purpose Statement  
• Translating Purpose into Positioning  
• Advocating for Yourself  
• Goal-Setting via SMART Goals | 3 Hours | September   |
| Managing Teams to Drive Performance        | • Models for Effective Management  
• Hiring, Firing, and Everything in Between | 3 Hours | October     |
| Negotiation and Advancement                | • Negotiation Best Practices  
• Securing Sponsorship  
• Exploring Strategies for Self-Promotion | 3 Hours | November    |
| Effective Communication                    | • Models for Effective Communication  
• How to Persuade and Influence Key Stakeholders | 3 Hours | December    |
| Panel: Journey to the C-Suite              | • Technical Leaders’ Personal Stories about Career Paths  
• Lessons Learned on the Journey | 90 Minutes | December    |
Program Director

The Illinois Technology Association and the Women Influence Chicago Advisory Board are proud to partner with Ethos, a talent strategy firm, on the development and execution of the Accelerator program.

Alida Miranda-Wolff, CEO of Ethos, will be serving as a facilitator, forum lead and coach for the program.

MEET ALIDA

Alida is a strategist, communicator, and people-person. She refines company cultures through a dogged commitment to continuous learning and a disciplined pursuit of more.

As the founder of Ethos, a talent strategy firm for tech, she grows the teams that fuel rocket ship companies. By shaping culture and developing talent, she helps strengthen every company’s biggest asset: its people. With a focus on diversity, hiring practices, vision and values, and career pathing, Alida partners with tech leaders to make possibilities and aspirations concrete realities.

Before Ethos, Alida led investors, partners, brand, and portfolio company growth at Hyde Park Angels where she helped grow the organization into the most active early-stage investor in the Midwest.