A Selective Chronology Of IBM Women In Technology

1890s

1899   The Computing Scale Company, one of three companies that will form the Computing - Tabulating - Recording Company (C-T-R) in 1911, hires Richard MacGregor, a Black employee, as well as Lilly J. Philp, Nettie A. Moore and Emma K. Manske. This occurs 10 years before the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded, 36 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and 20 years before women won the right to vote. In 1924, these four employees help inaugurate IBM's first Quarter Century Club.

1910s

1918   Clara Doring, Virginia Kempton, Rugh L. Schiele and Miriam R. Shott -- employees of an IBM predecessor company -- attend the Tabulating Machine School to learn about the mechanics and applications of punched card technology.

1920s

1924   Women join IBM's first Quarter Century Club, created to honor employees with 25 years of service.

1929   Virginia L. Linkenhoker organizes IBM's first customer training school.

1930s

1935   IBM hires its first professional women, 25 college seniors recruited for Systems Service. They are graduates of IBM's first women's systems service class at Endicott, N.Y., in 1935.

1935   Thomas J. Watson, Sr. champions the introduction of women into IBM's professional ranks, as the company holds its first systems service class for women. These "pioneering women" are the first wave of IBM female employees to take on customer contact positions traditionally filled by men.

1935   Virginia L. Linkenhoker becomes IBM's first full-time system service woman. She is soon followed by the graduates of IBM's first systems service class for women.

1935   Anne Van Vechten, a member of IBM's first system service class for women, becomes the company's Secretary of Education for the Women's Division.

1936   M.U. Davids-van Ryn from the Netherlands becomes the first systems service woman in IBM's European operations.

1936   Gertrude M. Brooks, a graduate of IBM's Electric Writing Machines (EWM) sales school, becomes the company's first female sales representative.

1937   IBM's first sales woman, Gertrude M. Brooks, becomes the first woman in the company to exceed her monthly sales quota.

1938   Bernice A. Gould joins the IBM Quarter Century Club, the first IBM female employee from Plant No. 1 in Endicott, N.Y. to achieve that distinction.

1938   IBM's Quarter Century Club welcomes Mabel Willmore, completing the Club's first father/daughter pairing. Her father Alfred had joined the Club in 1937.

1940s

1942   The first disabled blind female employees begin working at IBM.

1943   IBM names Ruth Leach (Amonette) a vice president, the company's first female executive.

1943   IBM Endicott's Betty Loretta Garren and Marion Louise Haner join the U.S. Navy's WAVES and become the first female employees to join the U.S. military in World War II.

1944   IBM Endicott names Marguerite L. Rounds as its first female manufacturing foreman.

1946   F.H. Finn becomes the first woman to qualify for IBM's One Hundred Percent Club, the top group of sales representatives who achieve or exceed their annual sales quotas.

1946   Jacqueline Decker qualifies for IBM's One Hundred Percent Club, marking her ascent to the top echelon of IBM's sales force.

1950s

1956   IBM appoints Jeannette Kittredge Watson, the widow of legendary IBM President Thomas J. Watson, Sr., as the first female member of the Board of Directors.

1956   IBM names Veronica Knizikiaucis its first female routing analyst. The position entails the preparation of engineering specifications for manufacturing processes.

1957   Ivy Woo, a secretary, joins IBM Hong Kong as its first female employee.

1958   Madeline Mantrell of IBM's San Jose Card plant becomes the first female employee in the Western Region to join the Quarter Century Club.

1959   IBM's Sarah Wilkinson is one of the first three women admitted to Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

1960s

1961   Barbara Bode of IBM San Jose is the first woman to receive a master's degree under the IBM Work Study Program. She received a masters degree in mathematics at San Jose State College.

1963   Dagmar L. Arnold, an IBM industrial designer at the company's San Jose Plant, is the first woman at IBM to receive a United States patent. The patent is for Miss Arnold's contribution to the external design of the 1301 Disk Storage Unit.

1963   Phoebe LaSense is the first woman Senior Systems Engineer.

1964   IBM employees Dee Dempsey and Alice Ribgy graduate from the first Women's Executive Classes taught at UCLA.

1964   IBM's Data Processing Division appoints Donna Proctor as its first female senior systems engineer.

1965   Betty Hickey is the first woman employee of IBM East Fishkill to retire after thirteen years of service. She retired on October 25, 1965 as an inspector.

1965   Dr. Geraline Swartz is the first PhD in the Systems Development Division. She was also active as an officer in the Scientific Research Society of America (RESA).

1966   1966-1970 IBM & SWE started a relationship with Rita McCabe (Armonk, NY)

1966   IBM Austria's first female Systems Engineer, Beate E. Hager, also becomes the first female instructor at IBM Austria's Training Center in Vienna.

1967   Judy Pittsford is the first IBM Austin hire.

1968   Elizabeth Metsel becomes the first female student at the IBM Technical Development Center.

1968   First women Educational Service Representatives (ESRs) in Latin America trained.

1970s

1970   Barbara Boyle becomes IBM's first program manager for women's programs.

1970   Women join the IBM Executive Resources Program for the first time.

1970   Anne Rawson becomes IBM's first female branch manager.

1970   Jane Cahill Pfeiffer, who would later become IBM's second female vice president, is the first woman to participate in the White House Fellow Program.

1970   Lynn McDonough - Australia's first Educational Service Representative (ESR).

1970   Betty Golsteon is the first woman to earn an Engineering degree from San Jose State and works as the only female engineer in San Jose.

1970   Janice Lourie is the first IBMer to receive Plateau Invention.

1971   Patricia Harris joins the IBM Board of Directors. She is the first black woman to serve on the Board.

1971   Peggy Givens is promoted to manager in manufacturing on a non-preferred shift becoming the first woman to do so.

1971   Libby Wareham is promoted to manager at the Dayton/Princeton site becoming the first woman site manager.

1974   Dorris Isaacs of IBM's Los Angeles office becomes the company's first black female systems engineering manager.

1976   IBM's Dr. Irene Greif is the first woman to earn a doctorate in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

1976   IBM became an official SWE corporate member.

1980s

1980   IBM introduces its innovative solution to heat dispersal for high performance computers, the award-winning Thermal Conduction Module.

1983   Charlotte Tyson is nominated as the first female IEEE Section Chair of the Denver Section.

1985   Risina Bright joins the Hursley, UK Quarter Century Club (QCC) member, the first female in Hursley to achieve that distinction.

1989   Frances Allen -- part of the first generation of women scientists who joined IBM Research in the 1950s -- becomes the company's first female IBM Fellow. The elite award honors her sustained history of technical achievements and business accomplishments, and recognizes her strong potential to make continuing contributions to IBM and to the industry.

1989   IBM Academy forms. Frances Allen (IBM Fellow Emerita), an original Academy member, later became the first and (to date) only woman Academy president.

1990s

1992   Karin Duermeyer becomes IBM Germany's first female certified IT architect.

1994   IBM Australia and New Zealand appoints Vickie Regan as its first female chief information officer.

1995   Yukako Uchinaga becomes the first woman to join IBM Japan's Board of Directors.

1995   First woman Senior Technical Staff Member (STSM) Amal Shaheen.

1996   IBM sponsors the first Women in Technology International Hall of Fame. The Hall's initial class of inductees includes current and former IBM employees Linda Sanford, Dr. Barbara Grant and Ruth Leach Amonette.

1996   IBM's first women's executive panel, composed of Linda Sanford, Donna VanFleet, Barbara McDuffie, Carol Kovac and Barbara McLane, and hosted by IBM Rochester, convenes as part of site Technical Vitality program. The meeting marks the beginning of Women in Technology programs at IBM.

1996   Distinguished Engineers distinction is formed and two IBM Women are named. First in the Americas, Katheryn Bohrer. First in EMEA, Karin Duermeyer.

1997   The first Women In Technology Steering Committee meeting convenes.

1997   The first IBM Women In Technology web site goes live.

1997   Karin Duermeyer, already the first woman in IBM Germany to achieve IT architect certification, achieves further honor by becoming the first female Distinguished Engineer in IBM's Europe/Middle East/Africa organization.

1998   The first IBM Women In Technology conference convenes.

2000s

2000   Abby Kohnstamm, who has led IBM's marketing organization since 1993, becomes IBM's first female senior vice president.

2001   IBM launches "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" as part of National Engineers Week (NEW) and IBM's sponsorship of 50th anniversary of NEW.

2002   Dr. Sandra K. Johnson becomes the first black woman elected to IBM Academy of Technology.

2002   IBM Academy of Technology elects first Hispanic woman, Maria Azua, and the first Academy member from Spain, Elisa Martin-Garijo. The IBM Academy of Technology Class of 2002 had the largest class of women ever.

2003   Josephine Cheng first female honored as the Asian American Engineer of the Year by the Chinese Institute of Engineers for her contributions to engineering. This is only the second year the award has been given.

2003   Jenny Choy first woman Distinguished Engineer appointee for Canada.