

SWE DISTINGUISHED NEW ENGINEER

Kattie Grady

CONSUNOVA INC.

For encouraging professional networks within SWE that build community and mutual support; for creating mentorship opportunities for aspiring women engineers; and for developing cost-effective software processes that ensure safety.



Kattie Grady has spent the entirety of her career in aerospace, starting with military applications and aircraft systems, moving to Parts 25 and 27 avionics (Federal Aviation Administration airworthiness standards), and, most recently, into general aviation. She is currently a senior software certification engineer with ConsuNova Inc. The company provides certification, compliance engineering services, and solutions for safety-critical systems to the aerospace and defense industries.

Before joining ConsuNova in October 2019, she was a senior advanced project engineer at BendixKing by Honeywell in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Grady began her career with ENSCO Avionics, an engineering services firm in Endicott, New York, while pursuing a computer science degree at Binghamton University as a part-time, nontraditional student. Prior to this, she was in the inaugural four-year engineering class at SUNY Institute of Technology. Grady continued with ENSCO after completing her degree.

During her time with ENSCO, she progressed quickly through many roles, ultimately moving into technical leadership for a team of verification engineers that grew rapidly under her leadership. Her responsibilities included programmatic leadership, technical problem-solving, and mentorship. She worked with many different types of avionics, giving her a broad understanding of the domain.

After relocating to New Mexico with her family, Grady joined BendixKing by Honeywell as a software developer in mid-2013 and advanced to software certification and verification lead. Based on her technical expertise, dedication, and strong interpersonal skills, Grady soon became a project engineer, with impact across the BendixKing product line.

She has worked with internal and external certification authorities to develop software processes in a new certification landscape, embracing new industry and regulatory guidance to create lean processes and procedures. Her work has lowered the development cost for general aviation products while maintaining necessary levels of safety assurance. This allows more pilots access to advanced systems, increasing safety and situational awareness for the pilot and crew.

For her work, Grady has garnered several awards from BendixKing, including Outstanding Engineer for the software team in 2019.

Grady has always desired to connect to and mentor other women engineers, and she found an avenue for doing so through the Society of Women Engineers. She became a member of the Central New Mexico Section in 2014. She has held several positions in the section: secretary, vice president, and, currently, as FY21 president.

Her time with SWE has focused on networking and social events to encourage local SWE members to build a community of mutual support and professional and personal development. She has also fulfilled committee work, helping to establish outreach events, plan fund-raising activities, and generate interest in engineering and other STEM areas where women are profoundly underrepresented.

Juggling work, family, and SWE, Grady has worked behind the scenes for the Society, serving for the last several years as a judge for SWE scholarship applications and as Prism Award judge in 2018.

Grady lives in Albuquerque with her husband, Nathaniel, and son. Her hobbies include glassblowing, baking, and hiking.