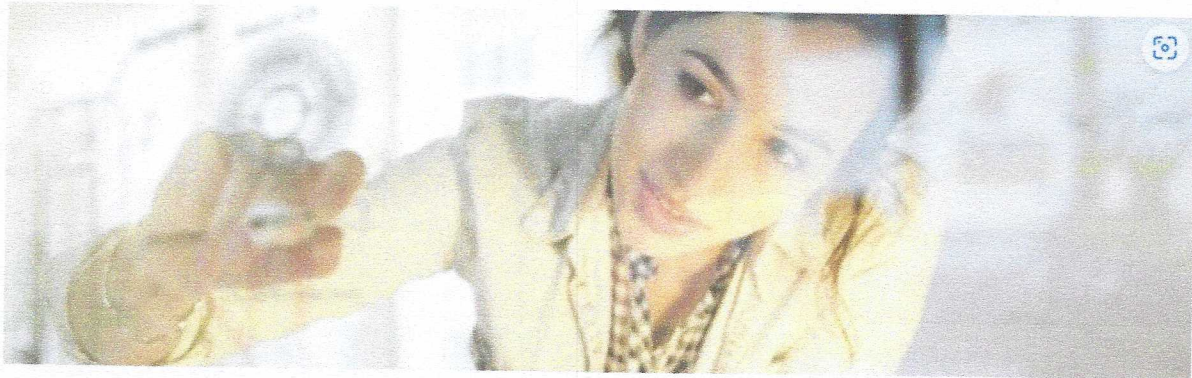


Women in Tech: thriving without limits

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International Women's Day reminds us to applaud the tremendous accomplishments of our women technologists, who challenge orthodoxy and bring innovative ideas to life every day. Without limits, they achieve incredible goals and serve as role models to those around them.

"The women of Accenture Technology are breaking barriers in every industry — from AI to Security, the Metaverse to Blockchain," says **Paul Daugherty**, Group Chief Executive, Technology, and Chief Technology Officer. "Our women colleagues raise the bar for excellence and deliver 360-degree value to our teams and clients every day. While there is still work to be done to achieve gender equity, we are committed to opening every door, so more women can grow and thrive without limits."

Chris Klunk, Chief Talent Officer – Accenture Technology, believes our women technologists serve as powerful role models. "They are not only improving the world, but they're also paving the way for future women leaders," she says.

Accenture's extraordinary role models

Meet two women at different stages of their careers, working in a rapidly growing industry where diverse perspectives are the lifeblood to innovation.



Sejal Parikh, Managing Director, Accenture Technology Center India, credits her parents for raising her without limits. "My parents truly believed that we could become better individuals and more confident when we made our own decisions, and they didn't try to impose theirs on us."

Unlike most women at the time, Sejal got an engineering degree and pursued a career in technology. She moved her family from their small town to Mumbai for bigger opportunities. Although it was not easy to leave her husband and daughter behind until they could join her, Sejal knew she had to follow through on her dreams.

Today, Sejal helps her clients define the best solution when they need to completely reinvent their enterprise. Her engineering background makes her uniquely qualified to help her clients move to a clean digital core and composable architecture.

Sejal is also very enthusiastic about her role as part of the Executive Council in Accenture India's Inclusion and Diversity team. In addition to making I&D a business priority for Accenture and our clients, the team also drives science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) awareness for girls.



Aniyah Jean (AJ) Fernandez Rivera, Senior Business & Integration Architect, started at Accenture 25 years ago as a software analyst. Within a few years, she was managing large projects for companies like Marriott International, AMEX, and Bank of America.

"When I started my career more than two decades ago, the corporate world was in a different place. It was not ready for trans women in the workplace," AJ recalls. "It was easier to have a professional career by hiding that part of me. So, I lived a double life and pretended to be an effeminate queer boy at work."

In 2019, AJ felt it was the right time to declare her authentic female self. With the support of her boss, AJ informed her clients and colleagues about her gender identity. While this could have been terrifying, AJ said, "It felt like hope. I felt more creative, more productive, more energized. I could just breathe freely."

Today, AJ is a managing director and Technology Products Lead for Accenture in Canada — as well as Technology Inclusion and Diversity Lead for Canada — an outspoken trans woman in technology and a leading LGBTQ+ advocate and mentor at Accenture.

Celebrating women around the world

Celebrate Technology's inspirational women and show your support by attending **local events**, engaging on social media (**LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram**) and by downloading the IWD profile photo frame, Teams backgrounds and more from the **digital assets collection**.