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FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR, INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL EARN COLLEGE BOARD AWARD FOR FEMALE DIVERSITY IN AP COMPUTER SCIENCE

Award acknowledges school’s female majority in computer science class

PATERSON – For the second consecutive year, International High School has received the College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Female Diversity Award in recognition of the school’s having a majority-female class in the AP Computer Science Principles course during the 2018-2019 school year.

A total of 40 students enrolled in AP Computer Science Principles during the 2018-2019 school year, and of those 28 were female. During the 2017-2018 school year, 33 students were enrolled in the class that year, and of those, 21 were female.

The AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award is given to schools that have either 50 percent or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses, or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school’s female population. Only 639 schools earned the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for having a majority-female class in the AP Computer Science Principles course.

“There is a special satisfaction that comes with receiving this award for the second year in a row. It shows that our efforts to enable young women in the computer sciences are consistent and effective,” said Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer. “I salute the young women who took the challenge of this demanding AP course. And I thank their principal, teacher and all of the administrators who helped launch the district’s first AP Computer Science Principles course, and their parents who have supported them every step of the way.”

“This recognition is the latest proof that if you put a challenge before our young women, they will rise to meet that challenge,” said IHS’ International Baccalaureate Program Principal Catherine Forfia-Dion. “To get the College Board’s recognition for our female-majority computer science class for a second time means that there are plenty of young women in Paterson who are up for the challenge of taking the AP Computer Science Principles class. I want to thank David Lakind, the AP Computer Science Principles teacher, for his efforts in launching the course.”

In order to be able to write the curriculum and start teaching the course, Lakind needed the required professional development as well as new devices for the students. The training and the devices were acquired with the help of donations from Infosys Foundation USA. The organization responded to Lakind’s posts on DonorsChoose.org, the website of a nonprofit organization that allows individuals to donate directly to public school classroom projects.
The introduction of AP Computer Science Principles in 2016 was the largest course launch in AP Program history. In 2019, nearly 100,000 students took the AP CSP exam, more than doubling participation in three years. During that time, the number of female AP CSP students has far outpaced overall growth, with an increase of 136 percent.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses is necessary to ensuring gender parity in high-paying technology jobs and to drive innovation, creativity, and competition. A 2014 Google study found that women are more likely to pursue computer science if they are given the opportunity to explore it in high school.

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