

National Center for Women & Information Technology K - 12 ALLIANCE



Mobilizing for Change – What is the K-12 Alliance?

No other single organization exists with the sole, explicit purpose of improving the participation of girls in K-12 computing and computer science. The issues that must be addressed to effect change are far-reaching and include:

- understanding and removing barriers to girls' participation
- improving the state of computing and computer science at the K-12 level
- tackling major problems with the image of the field and the health of the profession
- spreading the knowledge that computational literacy enables success in other careers



As a result, a broad alliance is necessary to address these issues and achieve the desired goals. The NCWIT K-12 Alliance is focused on outreach with transformational programs in both formal and informal education. We want to inspire all girls, making them more confident, aware, and interested in computing. We also will work to promote computing as a critical knowledge skill of the 21st century. Alliance members are capacity building organizations and corporations from across the country, which when aligned will have significant leverage and distribution capabilities. Additionally, national experts in research related to K-12 education and K-12 practitioners have joined the alliance as critical resources.



Current members of the K-12 Alliance include:



ACM (Association of Computing Machinery)
 ASCA (American School Counselor Association)
 The College Board
 CSEA (Computer Science Equity Alliance)
 CSTA (Computer Science Teachers Association)
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Girl Scouts of the USA
 Girls, Inc.

ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education)
 NCWIT
 Puget Sound Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology
 Sally Ride Science
 TECH CORPS Ohio
 The Girls' Middle School, Mountain View, CA

Corporations including:



NCWIT K-12 Alliance First Project:

The K-12 Alliance's first project will involve outreach to over 18,000 technology educators who will gather at the ISTE-sponsored National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) in Atlanta, June 24 – 27, 2007. The 2007 conference will focus on technology's role in developing 21st-century learners' leadership skills, student skills and knowledge, and emerging technologies and learning environments. The K-12 Alliance plans to supply these educators with computing career and educational information, and establish a major presence at the conference via speakers and other messaging. The Alliance also is creating a permanent national distribution channel, connecting each organization's spheres of influence in such a way that we can continually reach out across the country, providing educators, parents, and other K-12 influencers with relevant information and opportunities.

What is NCWIT?

The mission of the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is to ensure that women are fully represented in the influential world of information technology (IT) and computing. NCWIT's goal is IT professional workforce parity in 20 years, and our efforts focus on the entire pipeline, from K-12 through higher education to careers, both academic and industrial. To achieve rapid change, NCWIT has organized itself as a coalition and national mobilizing agent, using organizational models that scale nationally. Through a broadly connected network of partner organizations, companies, and individuals, NCWIT identifies and closes knowledge gaps, educates stakeholders, and advocates for institutional reform with educational organizations and corporations. NCWIT programs improve computing educations and careers for everybody; they include ground-breaking research and implementation work in K-12, higher education, and industry, as well as an image campaign that focuses on the future of technology.

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