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FIVE YEARS IN A ROW! –
INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL'S IB PROGRAM EARNS COLLEGE BOARD AWARD FOR FEMALE DIVERSITY IN AP COMPUTER SCIENCE

Award acknowledges school's female majority in computer science class

PATERSON – For the fifth consecutive year, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at International High School (IHS) has received the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Female Diversity Award in recognition of the school's having a female majority of students enrolled in the AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) course.

A total of 33 students enrolled in AP CSP during the 2021-2022 school year, with 28 being female. During the 2020-2021 school year, 23 students enrolled in AP CSP with 16 being female. In the 2019-2020 school year, a total of 39 students enrolled in AP CSP with 27 being female. In 2018-2019, there were 40 students enrolled in the course, with 28 of them being female. In 2017-2018, there were 21 female students among the 33 who enrolled in the course.

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 the percentage of the school's female population. Only 832 schools earned the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award out of the institutions that offered the AP CSP in 2021-2022.

"To receive the College Board's recognition for half a decade indicates that encouraging young women to rise to academic challenges isn't something that incidentally happens at International High School. It's an integral part of the institution," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "We may have come to expect this recognition every year, but we never take it for granted. That is why I am grateful to the principal, Dr. Catherine Forfia-Dion, the teachers, the administrators, and the students for maintaining this encouraging school culture that leads to excellence. I applaud the young women who enrolled in the challenging AP CSP course, and I thank their parents and families for supporting their daughters in all of their academic endeavors."

"As a school principal, I am thrilled to see so many talented and brilliant female students engaging and excelling in computer science," said IHS Principal Dr. Catherine Forfia-Dion.
"For years, we have offered the AP Computer Science Principles course as part of the International Baccalaureate program, at a time when just a little more than half of the high schools in the country can offer computer science courses. That is why I thank Martha Cruz, the AP Computer Science Principles teacher, for all of her efforts. Making the course available to young women and men is just one example of how we encourage our students to discover what they are truly capable of accomplishing."

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 critical to ensuring gender parity in the industry's high-paying jobs and to drive innovation, creativity, and representation. The median annual wage for computer and information technology occupations rose to $91,250 in May 2020. However, a code.org analysis of 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics data finds women represent just 24 percent of the 5 million people in computing occupations.

According to a 2020 College Board study about AP CSP, female students who take AP CSP in high school are more than five times as likely to major in computer science in college, compared to similar female students who did not take AP CSP.

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