

national center for

women &

INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

NCWIT: WHO WE ARE

NCWIT is the National Center for Women & Information Technology, a 501(c)(3) coalition that develops and amplifies efforts to increase diversity in IT and computing. We believe that inspiring greater diversity in IT will create a larger and more competitive workforce, and will foster the design of technology that is as broad and innovative as the population it serves. Our work focuses on the entire spectrum of K-12 through college education, from the workforce through entrepreneurial careers.



WHY IT MATTERS

- Girls comprised 46% of Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus test-takers, but only 19% of AP Computer Science test-takers.
- Women hold 56% of all professional occupations in the U.S. workforce, but only 25% of IT occupations. Only 11% of executives at Fortune 500 tech companies are women.
- In 2009, just 18% of undergraduate Computing and Information Sciences degrees were awarded to women; in 1985, women earned 37% of these degrees.
- Tech companies with more women on their management teams have a 34% higher return on investment; the presence of women on technical teams increases their collective problem-solving ability and creativity.

BUILDING A LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

NCWIT convenes and provisions a growing coalition of more than 300 corporations, academic institutions, government agencies, and non-profit organizations, organized into Alliances. By collaborating with its member organizations, NCWIT serves as a learning community that works toward reform across the full education and career spectrum.

The K-12 Alliance uses its enormous reach to improve the image of computing and the teaching of foundational computing skills. The Academic Alliance brings together a diverse range of colleges and universities to implement institutional change in higher education. The Workforce Alliance leads NCWIT's efforts in corporate organizational reform. The Entrepreneurial Alliance works with young companies to establish diversity at the start. The Affinity Group Alliance unites and communicates with technical women through professional groups. The Social Science Advisory Board provides NCWIT Alliances with evaluation and research foundations.

PROVIDING A CLEARINGHOUSE OF RESEARCH, DATA, AND STATISTICS

NCWIT provides a clearinghouse of resources relevant to girls, women, IT, and computing that are easy-to-use and free—including statistics, research reports, practices, curriculum materials, out-of-the-box tools, posters, workshops, videos, and podcasts. We identify and disseminate practices proven effective in the recruitment, retention, and advancement of girls and women in IT and computing. We aggregate and publish data and research findings targeted at specific audiences. We also conduct primary research in areas where there are knowledge gaps. These NCWIT resources provide the tools to implement change, raise awareness within organizations, and reach out to critical populations.

RAISING A NATIONAL VOICE

NCWIT serves as a national voice for the increased participation of girls and women in IT and computing. NCWIT campaigns support training for school guidance counselors, policy reform in K-12 computing education, the image of women in computing, outreach to underrepresented groups, innovative approaches to change, and increased awareness of diversity and women's contributions. Our award programs encourage high school girls to pursue a computing career, reward effective post-secondary recruitment and retention projects, and shine a spotlight on the successes of entrepreneurial women. Together, we can make a bigger difference sooner than if each organization acted alone.