

NCWIT Oregon & SW Washington Region

Our regional mission is:

To: Work nationally with the NCWIT Organization (National Center for Women in Informational Technology - more about NCWIT: www.ncwit.org), the CSTA (Computer Science Teachers Association), and locally with Oregon CSTA (www.oregoncsta.org), Oregon Department of Education, Regional STEM Hubs and ESDs, Oregon School principals, counselors, and computing teachers, Oregon Higher Education, local industry, and other organizations with similar interests.

To: **Identify** and **Recognize** young women with talent, skills, and interest in technology and to **Encourage** them to continue to expand those skills and interests into college technical majors and into the technical workforce.

To: Advocate for computing programs in schools so that all Oregon Students will have the opportunity to develop Computer Science skills in line with the 2016 White House “CSforALL” (CS4ALL) Program, and to help schools develop CS programs, train teachers, counselors, principals, and parent groups in the essential needs of students for technical skills.

To: Link students, teachers, counselors, and parent groups to resources they can use to help advocate for, encourage and develop computer science programs in their schools.

NCWIT Programs in Oregon and SW Washington:

Aspiration Awards for tech-oriented high school girls. This is the centerpiece of the recognition and encouragement programs. It involves an annual state-wide search for the top young technical talent. Girls are identified by school counselors and computing/tech teachers and encouraged to apply. Applications open on September 1, and remain open through the end of October. Girls' applications are done on-line, and must be endorsed by both a parent and an educator by mid-November to be valid. A national panel of judges from higher education, and industry, helps select the top talent. Regional girls are selected by meeting judging criteria and not competing with each other. These criteria include academic skills, utilizing available resources to develop technical knowledge, outreach and sharing of technical skills in projects at school or in the community, and an aspiration to work in technical fields. Oregon has recognized over 300 young high school women and over 80% of them have gone on to college majors in CS or Engineering, or minors in CS in combination with other STEM fields, or in combination with over 30 non-stem fields that require or strongly benefit from computer coding background. Girls are encouraged through technical opportunities like internships, scholarships, mentoring, tours, conferences, equipment, etc. Many colleges actively recruit and many provide scholarships especially for these NCWIT recognized girls. NCWIT links these girls to others from the 75 regions across the country and encourages them to form groups in colleges and via social media. Girls are eligible for grants at both high school and college level. Web information: www.aspirations.org

AspireIT: is a grant program for Aspirations winners available at both high school and college levels. It provides an opportunity for award winners to reach out to, and then develop and teach computing to middle school girls. It is the NCWIT program level for middle school. Winners work with high school teachers in combination with a college advisor to build a two week technology summer camp. The original design allowed award winners in high school technology programs to reach out to feeder middle schools to develop interest in technology. NCWIT provides a \$3000 renewable seed grant to help start a program. The program has become more flexible in allowing winners at the college level to start middle school programs at the college or continue working with her high school. Instead of a college advisor, a girl may work with NCWIT non-profit partners (like Saturday Academy, Girls Inc., and Oregon ASK).

Educator of the Year: NCWIT recognizes that behind every successful award winner is very probably a teacher and a school technology program. The Oregon & SW Washington Region works with Oregon CSTA to recognize and publically applaud those programs and teachers. At the national level NCWIT selects 35 of those teachers for special recognition awards called Educator of the Year. The award, presented at the regional awards ceremony, includes computer equipment, and a \$1000 grant.

Computing for Counselors (C4C) NCWIT has developed training courses, resources, and links, especially for high school level college and guidance counselors. Oregon offers both 1 hour information sessions and full 6 hour workshops.

College Level: Aspirations winners move onto the college level and the program continues to work with them to encourage computing majors and minors. NCWIT works with partner organizations to offer grants to promote academic CS research and to aid girls in setting up and maintaining student chapters of professional organizations. Grants to student ACM-W chapters encourage outreach within their own college, to other colleges, and to high schools. There are separate grants to CS departments for special projects encouraging inclusion of girls in CS programs.

NCWIT Oregon Regional contact and information: Ron Tenison, (tenison@frontier.com), 503-646-4031