



Resolution: Regarding the critical importance of promoting computer science

Ratified: November 2016

National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) hereby announces that Computer Science Education Week, as promoted by The Hour of Code™, highlights the crucial role that computer science plays in transforming our society and how computer science enables innovation and creates economic opportunities;

WHEREAS, computing technology is an integral part of modern culture and is transforming how people interact with each other and the world around them;

WHEREAS, computer science is transforming industry, creating new fields of commerce, driving innovation in all fields of science, and bolstering productivity in established economic sectors;

WHEREAS, the field of computer science underpins the information technology sector of our economy, which is a significant contributor to United States economic output;

WHEREAS, the field of computer science is a foundational science for the digital age;

WHEREAS, the information technology sector is uniquely positioned to help with economic recovery through the research and development of new innovations;

WHEREAS, the outlook for computer science jobs is bright with over 500,000 open computing positions across the country;

WHEREAS, providing students the chance to participate in high-quality computer science activities exposes them to the rich opportunities the field offers and provides critical thinking skills that will serve them throughout their lives;

WHEREAS, all students deserve a thorough preparation in computer science education, including access to the qualified teachers, technology, and age-appropriate curriculum needed to learn computer science at the elementary and secondary levels of education;

WHEREAS, computer science education has challenges to address, including counting computer science classes towards high school graduation requirements, and providing professional development for computer science teachers;

WHEREAS, participating in an Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week can serve to demystify the field of computer science and encourage more students to take up further studies of computer science;

WHEREAS, the field of computer science has significant equity barriers to address, including attracting more participation by females and underrepresented minorities to all levels and branches;

WHEREAS, Grace Murray Hopper, one of the first females in the field of computer science, engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems which laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science; and

WHEREAS, the week of December 5, in honor of Grace Hopper's birthday, is designated as 'Computer Science Education Week'

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the National Foundation for Women Legislators

- (1) supports the designation of Computer Science Education Week (December 5-11);
- (2) encourages schools, educators, parents and policymakers to participate in Computer Science Education Week by enabling their students to participate in the Hour of Code;
- (3) encourages schools, teachers, researchers, universities, business leaders and policymakers to identify mechanisms for teachers to receive cutting edge professional development to provide sustainable learning experiences in computer science at all educational levels and encourage students to be exposed to computer science concepts;
- (4) encourages policymakers to remove barriers that prevent computer science classes from being counted as math or science credits toward graduation requirements;
- (5) encourages opportunities, including through existing programs, for females and underrepresented minorities in computer science.