



# National Center for Women & Information Technology K-12 Alliance

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## 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)
- MDWIT (Multinational Development of Women in Technology)
- National Girls Collaborative Project
- SWE (Society of Women Engineers)
- TECH CORPS Ohio
- The Girls’ Middle School, Mountain View, CA

Corporations include:    

## NCWIT K-12 Alliance Projects

Now entering its fourth year, the K-12 Alliance has established a strong presence among technology educators with a unique set of innovative programs. The “Gotta Have IT!” resource kit for educators was first introduced at the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) in Atlanta in June 2007. Designed to build awareness and inspire interest in computing with a select set of posters, computing and career information, digital media and more, alliance members distributed more than 4000 “Gotta Have IT!” kits in less than two days. The kit received such strong interest that the alliance will release an updated version at NECC 2009 in Washington, D.C., June 28 – July 1. Not to stop with one successful project, the K-12 Alliance worked closely with NCWIT social scientists to develop the first *Talking Points* card titled, “Why should young women consider a career in Information Technology?”. Available in both English and Spanish, this card is targeted to parents of girls ages 11 – 16, and gives information for why parents should encourage their daughters to pursue careers in Information Technology. As with all NCWIT resources, both “Gotta Have IT!” and *Talking Points* are available for free at NCWIT’s website: [www.ncwit.org](http://www.ncwit.org). Going forward, the Alliance is 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.

