English 2575

Jovaria Asif

02/16/2016

Journal Article Summary

The article Broadening Participation: *Bringing Young Women into Computing through the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Program’*s title speaks for itself. Wendy Dubow wrote is all about bring women entering into the Information Technology field in this article. Fields including Law, medicine, business and biology were once known to be a man dominating fields as well but now, women are now equally seen in the industry. NCWIT (National Center for Women and Information Technology) aspirations is a computing program to provide young girls with encouragement and motivation to peruse their careers in computer science. NCWIT was founded in 2007, and since then they have been widely spread. This program is very important because in these times that we lives, it is often assumed that boys are born with basic knowledge of computers and that girls will not succeed. And if a girl does take a step forward and want to give her interest a try, she ends up being the only girl in her class. According to this article, “In one survey of girls, nearly half (47%) said they would feel uncomfortable being the only girl in the group or class. The Aspirations program enables girls to feel less isolated in these situations.” The NCWIT aspirations in computing educator award recognizes educators for their efforts to promote gender equity in computing.

It is very important that you get the feeling of being “fit” in order to build up interest in any field. Being lonely or isolated will only turn the person down and makes them feel that this place is not for them. This is the reason why it is important to have more females in the IT industry just to those who are there already get the feeling of being “fit”. Programs like National Center for Women and Information Technology Aspirations can help to inoculate girls against feeling like a misfit. Aspirations will also be providing young girls with example of the once before them and how was their journey to success.

National Center for Women and Information Technology attracts teens by giving out scholarship awards. Awards are giving out based on student’s computing and IT aptitude, leadership ability, academic history, and plan for post-secondary education. The NCWIT aspirations award has a national competition as well as local competition as well as local competitions in all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. As the awareness of this program increase, the number of applications increase as well. There were 54% of more application in 2013 compared to the number of applications in 2012.

Building up on the NCWIT award program, the program now spans from middle school to high school to college and then into the workforce. NCWIT created a Facebook page to tell the viewers know about the scholarship and internship opportunities. In addition, NCWIT has been spreading rapidly upon “the word of mouth”.

At the end of the program cycle, students are given an evaluation sheet to know how the program is doing. In the end of the each program cycle, it is seem that awardees have reported greater confidence in their technical abilities, increased enthusiasm about computing and greater awareness of the career opportunities available.

*Dubow, Wendy. "Bringing Young Women into Computing Through the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Program." Bringing Young Women into Computing Through the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Program. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Feb. 2016.c*