

NCWIT Counselors for Computing (C4C) provides professional school counselors with information and resources they can use to support ALL students as they explore computer science education and careers.

Counselors are influencers and gatekeepers. They counsel and encourage students in their education and career aspirations, advise them on course selections, and expose them to occupations through career fairs and internships. It is essential that counselors have the knowledge and resources they need to guide effectively, if young women are to get the exposure and encouragement they need to pursue computing.

Through C4C, NCWIT offers free professional development through workshops that range in length from one hour to one day.

- The content of each workshop is localized and immediately relevant. Presenters share national and local data about CS education and careers, invite technical people to speak about their career paths and work, and ask young women to share their accomplishments in computing.
- Counselors try their hand at computing through interactive experiences, such as "Sorting Networks."
- Counselors also receive C4C Resource Kits for talking with students, parents, and administrators about pathways towards computing education and careers.



## WHAT COUNSELORS SAY

Participating counselors take direct action:

- *"I have partnered with our AP Comp Sci teacher to advertise/market/inform more about CS. We're including information about CS (and STEM in general) in our career and college readiness curriculum lesson to all students."*
- *"Our district plans to add computer science in four high schools next year. This year, we started an after school app and programming club for girls to build awareness and readiness for those classes."*
- *"I realize now that a specific effort targeting girls must be made to get more girls into classes."*



Counselors for Computing (C4C) is sponsored by Merck, the Coca-Cola Foundation, and Apple.

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## KEY RESULTS

- More than 1,500 counselors have received professional development in 14 states.
- In 2016, nearly 3,000 C4C Resource Kits were distributed to counselors and other educators in 46 states.
- More than 95 percent of C4C participants surveyed report having a better understanding of computing, a broader sense of who is right for computing, and greater confidence to guide students toward computing classes and careers.



## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Help to build the capacity of groups that are intent on closing the gap between preparedness for computing careers (low) and opportunities for employment (high):

- Receive custom, local professional development around computing education and careers at no cost.
- Financially support the national expansion of C4C.
- Host local C4C events and programs, which address computer science education awareness and reform goals.

Colleges and universities, businesses, youth-serving organizations, computer science educators, professional counselor associations, and others can learn more at [www.ncwit.org/c4c](http://www.ncwit.org/c4c).

## ABOUT NCWIT

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is a non-profit community of nearly 900 universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations nationwide working to increase girls' and women's meaningful participation in computing. NCWIT equips change leaders with resources for taking action in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women from K-12 and higher education through industry and entrepreneurial careers. Find out more at [www.ncwit.org](http://www.ncwit.org).



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