

West Senior Wins Wisconsin NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

New Berlin, Wis. - New Berlin West senior Naomi Bhagat was selected as a winner of the 2016 Wisconsin National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing.

The award recognizes young high school women for their computing-related achievements and interests as part of an effort to encourage more young women to choose careers in technology.

Award winners were selected from high schools across Wisconsin for their outstanding aptitude and interest in information technology and computing, solid leadership ability, good academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.

Naomi's interest in technology began in seventh grade with a Digital Concepts class. Since then, she has successfully completed several Project Lead The Way and Computer Science courses and taught herself how to code in Python, Java, and C++. Naomi has a leadership role on the New Berlin Blitz Robotics team. She hopes to pursue a degree in Software Engineering.

"We are so proud of Naomi," Superintendent Joe Garza said. "Being recognized with the NCWIT Award makes her a role model and shines a spotlight on women and computing. The School District of New Berlin has significantly increased our technology offerings over the past few years to help prepare students for the needs of the projected economy. It is great to see students that take advantage of these opportunities recognized for their accomplishments."

Each award-winner receives prizes from top technology companies and universities, and is also eligible for scholarship awards from the Computer Science Departments at UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee.

"Encouraging young women's interest in technology careers is critical: our workforce needs their creativity and their innovation," said Lucy Sanders, CEO and Co-founder of NCWIT.

NCWIT works to correct the imbalance of gender diversity in technology and computing because gender diversity positively correlates with a larger workforce, better innovation, and increased business performance.

Increasing the number of women in technology and computing also has the potential to improve the design of products and services to better serve a more diverse population, and increase economic and social well-being by providing more women with stable and lucrative careers.

"Understanding the environments that our students will learn and work in someday is a critical part of effectively preparing them for life after high school. This is our collective work," Garza said.

Naomi will be honored at an awards celebration to be held April 3, at Alverno College.

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- [NCWIT - WI Affiliate](#)