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“SHE CAN TECH” INTRODUCES K-12 GIRLS TO TECHNOLOGY

PORTAGE, IN (December 2019) - “She Can Tech” is inspiring more women to pursue technology by teaching dozens of girls computing concepts with fun and interactive activities through NCWIT AspireIT - a technology outreach program for K-12 girls.

“She Can Tech” will help girls design and code their own computer games and apps, create their own website, and construct and program robotic arms. Sanja Kirova, Mireina Keith, Jade Kokinda, Sara Mitchell, Makayla Zettler, Kassandra Degara, and Kelly Schaffer will lead the program which they designed in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Northwest Indiana.

Recent data show that girls comprise 56% of all Advanced Placement (AP) test-takers and 47% of all AP Calculus test-takers, but only 23% of all AP CS test-takers. At the college level, women earn just 19% of all computer and information sciences bachelor’s degrees. The “near-peer” approach to enlisting high school or college students to teach younger peers can be an effective way to encourage girls to consider a field they might not have otherwise pursued.

“Early engagement in STEM is crucial in preventing any insecurity from forming before girls begin choosing career pathways and entering rooms where they may be the only girl in the crowd,” said Sanja Kirova. “All of us on the team can testify how impactful early exposure is in developing a passion for STEM. We hope that our program, She Can Tech, will encourage more girls to see themselves in computing and technology.”

She Can Tech is one of many programs taking place nationwide with the support of National Center of Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) AspireIT. Through AspireIT, more than 9,500 girls have received nearly 300,000 instruction hours through more than 425 AspireIT programs in 43 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico since 2013.

She Can Tech will host five workshops and numerous events throughout the year.

Find out more by visiting shecantech.org.

NCWIT AspireIT is a component of NCWIT Aspirations in Computing (AiC), a national initiative providing technical girls and women with ongoing engagement, visibility, and encouragement for their computing-related interests and achievements from high school through college and into the workforce. AspireIT is supported by Google, Northrop Grumman, and Bank of New York Mellon. Visit www.aspirations.org/aspireit for more information.