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## **Wade Hampton High School Earns AP Computer Science A Female Diversity Award**

*Recognized for Closing the Gender Gap in AP Computer Science A*

[Greenville, SC]—Wade Hampton High School has earned the College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls' access in AP computer science courses.

More than 1,100 institutions achieved either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science exam takers meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population during the 2021-22 school year. In 2022, Wade Hampton High School was one of 209 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science A.

"We're thrilled to congratulate our female AP computer science students and their teachers on this step toward gender parity in computer science education," said Principal Carlos Grant "We're honored that our school earned this distinction and look forward to seeing these young women and others pursue and achieve success in computer science education and careers."

"Computer science is the source code of our economy and so much of our daily lives," said Trevor Packer, College Board Head of the AP Program. "In the five years since we began the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award, it's been heartening to see schools like Wade Hampton High School welcome so many more young women into this vital field."

AP Computer Science A (CSA) students learn to design and implement computer programs that solve problems relevant to today's society. AP Computer Science A, which first debuted in 1988, continues to grow and female participation has increased 39% since 2017. Overall AP computer science course participation has increased 103% since 2017, broadening STEM career opportunities for more students.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses is critical to ensuring gender parity in the industry's high-paying jobs and to drive innovation, creativity, and representation. The median annual wage for computer and information technology occupations was \$97,430 in May 2021. However, women represent just 24% of the five million people in computing occupations.

According to a [Google study](#), 54% of female computer science majors took AP CSA in high school. College Board [research](#) finds that students are nearly twice as likely to enroll in AP CSA after taking AP CSP.

These findings highlight the importance of schools nationwide achieving gender parity in AP computer science classrooms. Female students remain underrepresented in our high school computer science classes, accounting for just 33% of AP Computer Science Principles participants and 25% of AP Computer Science A participants. Currently, 51% of high schools teach foundational computer science. The 1,105 schools that receive this year's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award serve as inspirations and models for all U.S. high schools.

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Wade Hampton High School is one of the highest performing high schools in South Carolina. Kim shares our school's vision which is focused on inspiring all students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. In challenging students and staff toward excellence, the staff supports a collaborative and cooperative atmosphere which strives for enthusiasm and joy in learning. The school highly respectful of the diversity of individuals and groups and teaches the values of our democratic society. Wade Hampton High School is bursting with great potential to far exceed expectations and to produce learners and leaders, who refuse to be average, overcome obstacles, and blaze trails to make great impacts in our community.

At Wade Hampton, academics are supported through established programs such as The Freshman Academy, now in its 18th year, and the After School Tutoring program, which provides free transportation home for students within WHHS's attendance zone. Additionally, approximately 20% of the student body takes advantage of specialized curricula at The Fine Arts Center or one of the four Career Centers throughout the county. One means of promoting rigor is through a philosophy of moving students into higher level courses if the achievement data supports it. In 2014, The School District of Greenville County launched Graduation Plus. This initiative is designed to encourage students to enhance their diploma program by selecting coursework that leads to completer certificates in technical areas or college credits through the dual credit program, and there are also opportunities for Early College. In 2020-2021, there were six dual credit courses included in the instructional program. They are Marketing101, Management101, English 101, English 102, the CERRA sponsored Teacher Cadet Program and Clemson sponsored Careers In Education (EDU 111). We believe that variety in the instructional program is vital to meeting the needs of our students.