Sacramento Country Day Earns 2018 College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award

Recognized for High Female Representation in AP Computer Science Courses

Sacramento, CA – Sacramento Country Day School has earned the 2018 College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. The award recognizes schools that are closing the gender gap and engaging more female students in computer science coursework in AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A. Out of more than 18,000 secondary schools worldwide that offer AP courses, Country Day is one of only 685 schools to accomplish this.

"We're honored by this recognition and are proud of our female students studying computer science for their achievements," said Head of School Lee Thomsen. "We're committed to continuing to provide our female students with access to AP Computer Science courses to help prepare a more diverse workforce in critical STEM jobs."

Schools receiving the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population. Only 490 schools earned the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for AP Computer Science Principles.

"By inviting many more young women to advanced computer science classrooms, Sacramento Country Day School has taken a significant step toward preparing all students for the widest range of 21st-century opportunities," said Trevor Packer, College Board senior vice president of the AP Program. "We hope this inspires many other high schools to engage more female students in AP Computer Science and prepare them to drive innovation."

The AP Computer Science Principles course launch in 2016 was the largest in Program history. AP Computer Science Principles has promoted the growth of AP computer science in high schools. AP computer science course participation

increased 135% since 2016, broadening STEM career opportunities for more students. The number of female, rural, and underrepresented minority students taking AP computer science exams has more than doubled in that period.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses contributes to gender parity in the industry's high-paying jobs and drives innovation, creativity, and competition. According to UNESCO's Institute of Statistics data, less than 30% of the world's researchers are women; in North America and Western Europe, it's just 32%. Research shows women are more likely to pursue computer science if they're given the opportunity to explore it in high school.

Sacramento Country Day School's mission is to inspire intellectual discovery and engage a diverse community to think critically, live creatively, and act compassionately. For more information about Country Day, please visit www.saccds.org.