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Cal Poly Helps Promote Aspiring Female Computer Scientists

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The Cal Poly Computer Science Department and the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) will recognize 12 high school female students from Central California with the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing.

The award was created to encourage computing aspirations of young women, introduce them to leadership opportunities in the field, and generate visibility for women’s participation in technology fields. Winners are acknowledged for their outstanding aptitude and interest in technology and computing, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.

“With technology jobs projected to grow faster than all other employment sectors in the next decade, it’s imperative we nurture the computing aspirations of women who will make up half the professional workforce,” said Lucy Sanders, CEO and co-founder of NCWIT. “This award allows us to recognize and encourage talent that might otherwise be overlooked.”

The winners of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing – Central California Affiliate are from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kern and Fresno counties and represent diverse socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds including Asian, Pacific Islander and Latina.

The 2012-13 Central Coast region award winners are:
- Delia Bullock, Dos Pueblos Senior High, Goleta
- Callie Carbajal, Buchanan High, Clovis
- Diana Chai, San Luis Obispo High, San Luis Obispo
- Ashley-Lynn Fastenan, Ventura High, Ventura
- Katelyn Greene, Dos Pueblos Senior High, Goleta
- Brooke Neufeld, Tehachapi High, Tehachapi
- Souvixada Somsacky, Buchanan High, Clovis
- Kavita Suri, Dos Pueblos Senior High, Goleta

Each winner will receive a $200 gift card, engraved awards for the recipient and her school, and the opportunity to meet with faculty, students and industry representatives from the field of computer science. The presentations will be given at an award ceremony in spring 2013.

About NCWIT:

The National Center for Women & Information Technology is a nonprofit coalition of more than 200 prominent corporations, academic institutions, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations working to improve U.S. innovation, competitiveness, and workforce sustainability by increasing women’s participation in IT. NCWIT’s work spans K-12 and higher education through industry and academic careers. Find out more at www.ncwit.org.

The Central California award is sponsored by Cal Poly’s Computer Science Department, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon. Additional support is provided at the national level by Microsoft, Motorola Solutions Foundation and Google.

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