EUHSD Schools Earn AP Computer Science Female Diversity Awards

Escondido, CA – Orange Glen and Escondido high schools were recognized for closing the gender gap in Advanced Placement Computer Science classes by the AP Computer Science College Board. Orange Glen earned the AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women’s access to both AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles. The award acknowledges 1,020 schools for their work toward equal gender representation during the 2020-21 school year and Orange Glen was one of only 61 schools to be recognized for achieving this important result in both AP computer science courses. Escondido High earned the recognition for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles and was one of 760 schools to be recognized for achieving this important result in AP CSP.

“We are thrilled that our educators have worked so hard to earn these distinctions and as a district, we have taken this step toward gender parity in computer science education,” said Superintendent Dr. Anne Staffieri. “We look forward to seeing these young women and others pursue and achieve success in computer science education and careers.”

According to a Google study, 54% of female computer science majors took AP Computer Science A in high school. College Board research about AP Computer Science Principles also finds these students are nearly twice as likely to enroll in AP Computer Science A, and that for most students, AP Computer Science Principles serves as a stepping stone to other advanced AP STEM coursework.

These findings highlight the importance of schools nationwide achieving gender parity in AP computer science classrooms. Nationally, female students remain underrepresented in high
school computer science classes, accounting for just 34% of AP Computer Science Principles participants and 25% of AP Computer Science A participants. Currently, 51% of high schools teach foundational computer science.

Each of the three EUSHD comprehensive high schools currently offer AP Computer Science courses, with the majority of classes being taught by female educators. In addition to AP classes, students can take part in computer science clubs like the Cyberstart Club at Escondido High, Girls Who Code at Orange Glen High, and the SuperNURDs Robotics Club at San Pasqual High.

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**About Escondido Union High School District**

The Escondido Union High School District has empowered students to graduate prepared for college, career, and life through excellence in learning for more than 125 years. The district serves more than 7,000 students across five high schools including: Escondido, Orange Glen, and San Pasqual, Del Lago Academy and Valley; as well as the Escondido Adult School. More than 900 staff members are employed by Escondido Union High School District, which offers more than 180 courses, including nationally recognized Advanced Placement courses, College & Career Technical Education, Independent Study, after school enrichment, career exploration, STEM opportunities, and more.