

HER PLACE IN TECH:

Promoting Girls in Computer Science

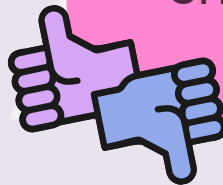
STEREOTYPES

Our society has a stereotype that girls do not like computer science (CS).¹



When girls are explicitly told that other girls are not interested in a CS course they feel less belonging in the course.¹

When girls expect they won't feel like they belong in a CS course, they are less interested in enrolling in that course.¹



UNDERREPRESENTATION

The CS field continues to be underrepresented with only 21% of CS bachelor degrees earned by women.²

Adolescent girls' sense of belonging in CS courses is highly sensitive to the issue of representation.¹



Underrepresentation in CS courses reduces girls' sense of belonging and enrollment interest.¹

WHAT CAN WE DO?



Teach CS courses with content that is fun and interesting to all students.¹

Make sure girls know that CS can be fun and interesting.¹

Encourage girls to take CS classes.¹

When classes have equal representation, emphasize that information.¹



1 - Master, A., Alexander, T., Thompson, J., Fan, W., Meltzoff, A. N., & Cheryan, S. (In press). Causes and consequences of stereotypes: Interest stereotypes reduce adolescent girls' motivation to enroll in computer science classes. *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*.

2 - National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. (2023). Table 2-2: Bachelor's degrees awarded, by field, sex, citizenship, race, and ethnicity: 2011-2020. *Diversity and STEM: Women, minorities, and persons with disabilities 2023*.