



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

AAUW supports the goals of Women and Math Mentoring

AAUW Raleigh/Wake County, November 16, 2000

<http://rtpnet.org/aauw>

AAUW Research

Tech-Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age (2000). This report explores girls' and teachers' perspectives of today's computer culture and technology use at school, home, and the workplace. It presents recommendations for broadening access to computers for girls and others who don't fit the "male hacker/computer geek" stereotype. Two recommendations, in particular, match the goals of the WAM/AAUW/HAHT Web workshops:

Educate girls to be designers, not just users: Educators and parents should help girls imagine themselves early in life as designers and producers of new technology. Engage girls in "tinkering" activities that can stimulate deeper interest in technology; provide opportunities for girls to express their technological imaginations.

Change the public face of computing: Media, teachers, and other adults need to make the public face of women in computing correspond to the reality rather than the stereotype. Girls tend to imagine that computer professionals or those who work heavily with information technology live in a solitary, antisocial world. This is an alienating—and incorrect—perception.

Voices of a Generation: Teenage Girls on Sex, School, and Self (1999). Compares the comments of roughly 2100 girls nationwide on peer pressure, sexuality, the media, and school. The girls were 1997 and 1998 participants in AAUW teen forums called Sister-to-Sister Summits. The report explores differences in girls' responses by race, ethnicity, and age and offers the girls action proposals to solve common problems.

WAM/AAUW/HAHT Web workshops provided a different kind of venue for the girls to get their "voices" heard. In only two hours, several of the girls built web pages that expressed their unique personalities and interests.

Gender Gaps: Where Schools Still Fail our Children (1998). Measures schools' mixed progress toward gender equity and excellence since the 1992 publication of *How Schools Shortchange Girls*. Report compares student course enrollments, tests, grades, risks, and resiliency by race and class as well as gender. It finds some gains in girls' achievement, some areas where boys—not girls—lag, and some areas, like technology, where needs have not yet been addressed.

AAUW Projects

Signposts: A Guide to Creating Gender-Fair Schools (1999 -). Based on the *Gender Gaps* report, *Signposts* is a tool for awareness, self-assessment, and reform in issues that go beyond technology. It provides resources for improving gender fairness and a recognition program for successful schools.

AAUW Tech Check For Schools (1998 -). This is a self-assessment program for schools to help them assess the computer environment for girls and boys, and identify both the strengths and challenges of their programs. It includes a list of resources to overcome some of the challenges. Results from early adopters of *Tech Check* were included in the *Tech-Savvy* report.

Sister-to-Sister (1997 -). The program whose findings were summarized in *Voices of a Generation* is still active. One of the most frequently heard comments from the girls who attended the NC Summit in 1998, was, "Why aren't there more programs like this?"

AAUW Grants, Fellowships and Awards

Community Action Grants: \$2,000 - \$10,000 for innovative programs that promote education and equity for women and girls.

Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellowships: up to \$9,000 to outstanding public school teachers hosting projects to boost girls' achievement in math, science and/or technology.

Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award: biennial \$5000 award for outstanding contributions to equity and education for women and girls.

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- For more information, see www.aauw.org or rtpnet.org/aauw. To order any of the above reports or supporting material for one of the projects, contact www.aauw.org/7000/sales.html, 800-225-9998, or (particularly if your order does not meet the \$25 minimum), aauw@rtpnet.org.
 - If you are interested in implementing any of the projects in Wake County or want the support of the Raleigh/Wake County branch in a grant, fellowship, or award application, please contact aauw@rtpnet.org.