

Moving Girls into the Technology Pipeline

- Monitor computer use in the classroom—Demand/insure equal access for girls. Don't let free time become the "boys' club" at the computers.
- Monitor **how** the computers are used. Pay attention to what software/programs are being accessed.
- If you have student technology teams in your schools, be sure that they are evenly divided by sex. Invite girls to be on them. Push them and challenge them to participate.
- If you don't have student technology teams, create them, teaching students to help with the basics of computer use and trouble-shooting.
- Make girls the experts; use them and be sure that their efforts are publicly rewarded. Recruit the popular girls too.
- Make your room a safe environment for questions and risk-taking. Be sure that girls can ask questions that receive the same amount and kind of attention that boys receive. Have another teacher observe you with a checklist or video yourself and watch how you talk to different groups.
- Work with counselors to get a critical mass of girls in the advanced math, science and technology classes. Actively recruit girls to try these classes.
- Use posters of women in computing. Invite local women to talk about careers on career day.
- Help girls to see computers as more than just a tool—explore games, create movies—show them how to enjoy the technology.

- Make the computer activities social, not isolated. Group the computers so that users can confer with each other. Work in pairs.
- Integrate technology into the whole curriculum so that girls can see that they need to learn how to use it, and that they can learn it. Brush up your skills so that you feel comfortable and communicate that to the girls.
- Challenge the girls to learn the new technology. Talk about design and what they could contribute to the design base and how their skills could be used to make a better world. Show them that they can have a positive impact on society.
- Always relate what you are learning or using to the world of careers. Bring in community members who use these skills and let your students see their relevance.
- Start an after-school or lunchtime girls' computer club.
- And most important, be aware of your attitudes and comments and strive to recognize and promote girls' efforts and interests.