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Calendar

AAUW/CT

Fall 2000

Nutmeg News

Our Young Women in the 21st Century

So many strong, determined and far sighted women have brought us to this point in time. We stand on their shoulders as we walk forward into the 21st century knowing that our vision of equity for all women and girls has not yet been achieved.

While their presence in mathematics and science classes has increased in the past decade, young women today are almost absent from places where technology is alive and strong. Yes, they can use an ATM machine but can they use computer assisted design (CAD) to create the plans for our future? Young women say that they are not interested in the violent and competitive culture of the computer world. If that is so, then we must change the culture.

Our young women must feel free to work in an environment where their creativity has a place. They can be the designers of future Websites. They can find innovative new uses for robotics. They can be the computer assisted musicians of the future. Yes, they can! But, only if they are at the drawing board, at the keyboard, and on the mouse.

In AAUW we are going to redefine computer literacy to include the lifelong applications of relevant concepts, skills, and problem-solving abilities. Our girls must be trained to be literate citizens in a culture increasingly dependent on computers. They must move beyond word processing and presentation software to solve real-life problems with technology.

In addition, AAUW will need to work with school districts to guarantee that computing is occurring across the curriculum. It needs to be integrated into all the subject areas and disciplines. Schools must respect that there are multiple points of entry in the computer world. These multiple entry points such as art or mathematics need to be respected and encouraged while we remain sensitive to activities and perspectives that are appealing to girls and young women. We also need to support our school districts in providing

September 22-23— New England Regional Caucus Worcester, MA
October 14— Fall AAUW/CT Leadership Conference and Board Meeting Legislative Office Building, Hartford
October 20-22— Women 2000 Worcester, MA
November 13— “The Power of Women: Believing is Achieving” AAUW and Charter Oak State College Eli Whitney Museum Middletown

professional development for teachers so that they are prepared to be tech-savvy. This training needs to shift from mastery of hardware to the design of classroom