



NEWS RELEASE

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BCPS computer resource teacher named one of 4 National Educator Award winners

Two students honored with Maryland Affiliate awards

TOWSON, MD – Amanda Lattimore, computer resource teacher for Baltimore County Public Schools, has been named one of four [National Aspirations in Computing \(AiC\) Educator Award winners](#) by the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT).

In announcing the award, NCWIT wrote, “The award identifies outstanding formal and informal educators who play a pivotal role in encouraging 9th – 12th grade students who are women, genderqueer, or non-binary students to explore their interest in computing and technology. The award also recognizes these educators for their efforts to promote gender equity in computing.”

Lattimore and the other three recipients were selected from 54 eligible applicants from 33 U.S. states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. Each recipient will receive a \$2,500 cash prize, recognition, a trophy, and prizes, including eligibility to apply for professional development funds.

Lattimore has taught math and computer science for 20 years in BCPS, including eLearning courses, and she has increased enrollment in computer science courses, especially among females and students of color. In addition, Lattimore is a mentor for College Board; a facilitator for Code.org for the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles course; and a columnist for [“ACM Inroads” magazine](#). In 2015, Lattimore spoke at a TEDx event to encourage everyone to take at least one programming class in high school. She has earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and a master’s degree in instructional technology, both from Towson University, and an Admin 1 certificate from Trinity University.

In discussing her work, Lattimore said, “Female and non-binary students have been consistently under-represented in computer science education and in industry. It is my passion to encourage these students to enroll in computer science courses and to pursue related degrees in college. It is a teacher’s job to ignite a spark and love for learning, and I have done that by making computer science more inclusive and encouraging female and non-binary students to participate in computer science courses and extra-curricular activities. We have a multitude of computer science jobs in the region and who better to fill them than BCPS graduates who can help diversity the workforce.”

Honors for students

In addition, two BCPS seniors, [Alina Aler](#) of Catonsville High School and [Dyllan Lawrence](#) of Western School of Technology and Environmental Sciences have been honored by AiC. Lawrence was named a 2022 Maryland Affiliate Rising Star, and Aler earned a 2022 Maryland Affiliate Honorable Mention.

Both Aler and Lawrence have taken eLearning classes with Lattimore. “The courses I teach are for acceleration for students who otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to take the class through BCPS,” Lattimore says, “and I feel like that isn’t advertised much.”

Lawrence has completed six computer science classes during her three years of high school and is skilled in JavaScript, Linux Essentials, and C++. She explored web and game design in an internship-based class, and she is the co-founder of a CyberStart America chapter at her school. Lawrence plans to major in cyber security when she goes to college.

Aler took all the computer science classes offered by her school before moving on to eLearning classes. Involved in CyberStart America since her sophomore year, she has learned about ethical hacking, networking, Linux, Python, and more. Outside of computer science, Aler is president of her school’s Model United Nations club and a Page for the Maryland General Assembly.

(Editor’s note: Photos of Lattimore, Lawrence, and Aler accompany this release.)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation’s 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).