

Two Cranford Students Recognized for NCWIT Aspirations in Computing

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) holds its Award for Aspirations in Computing each year to honor high school women who are active and interested in computing and technology. The organization provides a long-term community for female technologists from all over the US and its territories, encouraging them to pursue their passions. The competition has these young women outlining their contributions to the community in a technological way, and writing up reflections to show growth and focus for the future. Two Cranford High School students were awarded at the state level for the 2016 year. Mr. Richard Bell, the high school's computer science teacher, said "I couldn't be more proud of my students; I am glad that their drive and dedication are being recognized nationally through these awards. They truly deserve it."

Kathleen Shatinsky, a senior, is a winner of the New Jersey Affiliate Award, one of 34 in the entire state. Kathleen is a part of the webmaster team where she utilizes her passion of photography to help design the aesthetics of the web site, using her own images or even some from her classmates in the advanced photography class. Kathleen plans on focusing on the human-computer interaction in an Information Science degree after graduation, but will be researching the gender gap in the technology sector during her senior research project before she leaves CHS.

Marisa Sigas, a junior, received Runner Up for the New Jersey Affiliate Award. Marisa is also a webmaster of the high school where she helps design and maintain the high school's website each day. She is actively involved in the plays and musicals and wishes to continue to do so alongside of her computing studies. She is currently in the AP Computer Science class, and plans on taking the AP CS Principles course next year as it goes through its first year of existence, and plans to focus her studies on the Cyber Security field after high school.

CHS Guidance Counselor Nancy Campbell said of Kathleen and Marisa, "How exciting to have two of my counsees named as NCWIT Aspiration awardees. Both young women are intelligent, hardworking problem solvers who epitomize the excellent qualities that we are surely looking for in girls who code. I believe our future is in good hands, knowing that these talented recipients will be joining the ranks of women in computing."