

For the Bay Area tech event, I attended the NCWIT Conversations for Change with Lien Diaz: Promoting Equity in Computer Science Education. In this discussion, Lien Diaz spoke about the inequalities in CS education and in doing so, she dove into the Advanced Placement Computer Science Program offered in high schools in America in particular. Diaz was a relatable speaker who began the discussion by elaborating on what drives her to do the important work, she spoke on her experiences in the tech industry and dealt out statistics which showed how the tech industry is still dominated by majority white men.

Lien Diaz played a vital role in founding the Constellations Center for Equity in Computing at Georgia Tech. Bringing an essential core foundation of equity in access and opportunity to computer science (CS) education, her role as Director of Educational Innovation and Leadership establishes the Constellations Center as a leader in expanding CS education through an equitable and comprehensive approach. Her professional experiences span more than twenty-five years, focusing on STEM and CS education. She was a Principal Investigator on the Broadening Participation in CS Collaborative Research grant funded by the National Science Foundation to develop the new Advanced Placement CS Principles course. Lien's work is motivated by challenging the status quo to change perspectives of CS education and make transparent the educational issues that must be addressed to obtain equity in school systems across the country.

So, when I heard Diaz is doing a lot of work in places I come from in Georgia, it definitely meant a lot to me. It means so much because as Diaz said in her talk, CS education is a social justice issue. And, she makes a great point when she also mentions, "Without computing skills, marginalized groups will become critically disadvantaged in a digital society." That is something I think about often as a Black man who is learning Computer science and understands the magnitude of computing. So, in saying that, I also believe her goal of democratizing computer science education is a very important goal for communities like mine and I think goals like hers are a huge reason I strive to learn more about computing. And, to see her and her team's work in Atlanta for communities is motivation for me to keep going because there are others who are fighting for the same mission.

THE  
IDEA  
YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE

IS THE  
VOICE  
YOU  
HAVEN'T  
HEARD.

newit.org

**Conversations for Change**  
with Lien Diaz  
Promoting Equity in Computer Science Education  
Wednesday, December 8, 2021 | 12:00 p.m. (MST)

Type here to search

48°F 2:04 PM 12/8/2021

