News Release
Everett Public Schools

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Everett High sophomore honored by national technology group

Kaitlin McKinnon, a 10th-grader at Everett High School is among only eight other Seattle area young women to be recognized in November by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) in November. The Award for Aspirations in Computing recognizes female high school students for their computing-related skills and interests and comes with a $500 commemorative award.

In their announcement of the award, NCWIT officials said the eight young women were honored for their outstanding aptitude and interest in information technology and computing; solid leadership ability; good academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.

McKinnon's interests certainly made her a prime candidate for the award. She admits that her passion has always centered around creatively combining art and technology, in particular, digital design, editing and photography. She credits a number of her teachers with keeping that passion alive. Kathy Anderson, now a teacher at Everett High was McKinnon's middle school math teacher. "I use math all the time in computing," says McKinnon. Former EHS digital photography teacher Brad Johnson and the school's current marketing instructor Shane Kleven also helped guide and develop McKinnon's skills. Since eighth grade, she has been on her church's technology team and is responsible for taping four church services each month. In the summer of 2007 she attended Microsoft's Digi Girlz camp and the SPRITE Technology Camp at Edmonds Community College. As a result of her interests, experiences and the support she has received from teachers and other adults, McKinnon plans to pursue a degree in computer science, business administration and/or communications. "I would love to do promotional advertising," she notes.

The Award for Aspirations in Computing is given two times each year to nominees from areas where NCWIT holds its bi-annual conferences. The November 2007 conference was held at the Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington. The recipients received their awards from Ed Lazowska, the university's Bill and Melinda Gates Chair in Computer Science and Engineering.

EHS Kaitlin McKinnon is fourth from the left in the middle row. She and other award winners stand with Ed Lazowska and NCWIT's CEO and Co-founder Lucy Sanders at the time of the awards ceremony.