



**For Immediate Release**

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**BGSU computer science mentorship program for girls receives 'Inspiring Programs in STEM Award'**

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio - A Bowling Green State University computer science mentorship program for girls has received the 2021 'Inspiring Programs in STEM Award' from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education.

[CODE4her](#) is a program that provides computer science mentoring for girls in grades 5-8. First offered in 2017, the program teaches girls the basics of computer programming in a hands-on way. Multiple [sessions are offered each year](#) on the Bowling Green campus.

Nominated in the spring, CODE4her was selected for the 'Inspiring Programs in STEM Award' based on the way the program highlights the possibilities and opportunities for women in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) career fields.

"CODE4Her attempts to spark interest in computer science for girls at a young age," said Jadwiga Carlson, CODE4her program coordinator and [BGSU computer science](#) teaching professor. "The program also has the potential to significantly contribute to retaining female students in computer science who are involved as mentors. Girls' participation can change their perception of computer science, their abilities and provide the needed role models. The unique combination of service, engagement, community outreach and

informal learning provides an innovative approach to addressing the underrepresentation of women in computer science."

CODE4her is one of 78 programs being recognized in the September issue of [INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine](#).

Founded by Carlson with support from [BGSU Women in Computing](#) (BGWIC), CODE4her is housed in the Department of Computer Science in the [College of Arts and Sciences](#) at BGSU. The on-campus group supports female students pursuing computer science degrees by providing professional development, social networking and community involvement opportunities in a collaborative, empowering environment.

For more information, visit [CODE4her online](#) or contact Jadwiga Carlson at [jacarl@bgsu.edu](mailto:jacarl@bgsu.edu).

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