

ISTE 110: Ethics in Computing

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Women In Computing

Lorne Grabher had his last name on a vanity license plate, which was deemed socially unacceptable and revoked.

Grabher License Plate Called Socially Unacceptable In Nova Scotia

Why are women less included in politics? Nintendo first chose to market in the boy's aisle of stores for their product. Many people develop an interest in computer scientists through gaming. Women are also an ostracizing group in games:

Xbox Live Survival for Female Gamers

[Pizza Break]

Discuss with your groups why such a disparity exists in tech.

One of the biggest reasons behind this disparity is culture, particularly online culture. Historically, boys have gone into science while girls study "soft" areas like English.

The workplace faces similar problems, which extends to demographics such as people with disabilities. Also note the recent government meetings regarding Planned Parenthood, which consisted of almost entirely men.

You can't be it if you can't see it

There are few women in computing, and women are discouraged because they don't see other women succeeding in the field. At RIT, there is a 90-10 male-female disparity. Overall at RIT, it is a little better at 65-35.

Reddit

Reddit's two pillars are anonymity and free speech. While some parts are very informative, other parts are toxic and misogynist. A woman noted in an experiment that after posting the same comic with both a male and female username, she was bashed under the female username and encouraged using the male username.

There are subreddits designed to bring people with similar interests together. After Anderson Cooper did a piece on subreddit /r/jailbait, which featured pictures of often underage girls, the public response was explosive and Reddit actually took down the subreddit.

Reminders and Homework

The Lessig Assignment is due Monday, April 10th at 11:59PM. Work on your final paper and projects.

You can find all my notes at <http://omgimenerd.tech/notes>. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at alvin@omgimenerd.tech