

2021 -- S 0566

LC002392

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CONGRATULATING ST. MARY ACADEMY-BAY VIEW FOR BEING AWARDED TWO
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE FEMALE DIVERSITY AWARDS**

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, and Coyne

Date Introduced: March 09, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, For the third year in a row, St. Mary Academy-Bay View has earned two
2 College AP Computer Science Female Diversity Awards for having high female representation in
3 AP Computer Science A (CSA) and AP Computer Science Principles (CSP) courses; and

4 WHEREAS, This prestigious accomplishment would have been impossible without the
5 enormous contributions made by Bay View faculty members Valerie Briden, Chair of the
6 Computer Science Department, Antonella Lombardi, Chair of the Mathematics Department, and
7 Colleen Gribbin, Upper School Principal. Thanks to their tireless efforts, leadership, and
8 innovative approaches to teaching, Bay View was one of only fifty-six schools out of 20,000
9 institutions to be recognized for closing the gap in both AP computer science courses; and

10 WHEREAS, Providing greater access to computer science courses for young women is a
11 vital component to eliminating various gender gaps in our society. According to the United States
12 Bureau of Labor Statistics in a 2017 report, the median annual wage for computer and
13 information technology occupations is \$88,240, yet women only represented just twenty-four
14 percent of the five million people in computer occupations; and

15 WHEREAS, Thanks to St. Mary Academy-Bay View and talented education
16 professionals like Valerie Briden and Antonella Lombardi, progress is being made but more
17 change is still necessary. Perhaps Stefanie Sanford, College Board Chief of Global Policy and
18 External Relations summed things up best when she stated “Young women deserve an equal
19 opportunity to become the next generation of entrepreneurs, engineers and tech leaders. Closing

1 the gap in computer science education empowers young women to build the future they want.”
2 One place where young women are currently receiving these important opportunities is at St.
3 Mary Academy-Bay View; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby congratulates St. Mary
5 Academy-Bay View for being awarded two AP Computer Science Female Diversity Awards; and
6 be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Colleen Gribbin, Upper School Principal,
9 Valerie Briden, Chair of the Computer Science Department, and Antonella Lombardi, Chair of
10 the Mathematics Department, St. Mary Academy-Bay View.

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