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Workshop Aims to Introduce High School Girls to the IT Field

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GREENSBORO, N.C. — When it comes to career aspirations, jobs in technical fields like computer science and information technology often struggle to attract the interest of girls.

A workshop at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is hoping to change that.

The free seminar "IT is for Girls" will be held Saturday, June 5, at the [Bryan School of Business and Economics](#) on campus. Designed for rising high school girls in grades 9-11, the program will use hands-on activities and mentorship to open the world of information technology to young women.

The half-day program is free, but registration is required. For details and registration, visit www.uncg.edu/bae/isom/wit. If you have questions, contact Dr. Lakshmi Iyer at lsiyer@uncg.edu or (336) 334-4984.

Gaining women's interest in the field of information technology is important, said Dr. Stephen Tate, chair of the [Department of Computer Science](#).

"A New York Times story identified the 20 most important innovations in the past 30 years. Computer scientists played a primary role in a majority of the items and touched on all of them," Tate said. "As high school girls consider the path to take in life, we want them to know that if they want to change the world, a career in computer science empowers them to do that."

By the time participants leave the workshop, they will have learned about creating animations, interactive narratives and video games using SCRATCH software from MIT, designing web pages, explored computer and internet security and ways to visualize data.

Organizers received great feedback from participants in last year's pilot program, Iyer said. "One participant said that a lot of the time girls do not consider careers in IT, primarily because they don't realize the opportunities that exist. Programs such as this one really do educate in multiple ways."

The workshop, now in its second year, is organized by UNCG's Department of Information Systems and Operations Management and the Department of Computer Science. Sponsors include Guilford County Schools, the American Association for University Women, RF Micro Devices Inc., M Systems International, Inc. and UNCG's Information and Technology Services, College of Arts and Sciences and Bryan School of Business and Economics.

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