

Marion wins highly regarded AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award

By Sean Douglas

Marion High School was one of two Indiana high schools to recently receive the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award. This award recognizes schools who expanded young women’s access to the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles course in the 2019-2020 school year. Out of 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, according to The College Board, 1,119 achieved ever 50 percent or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school’s female population during the 2019-2020.

“Whether it’s 3-D animation, engineering, music, app development, medicine, visual design, robotics, or political analysis, computer science is the engine that powers the technology, productivity, and innovation that drive the world,” the College Board said on its website. “Computer science experience has become imperative for students’ success in the workforce of tomorrow.”

Marion was recognized as one of the 831 in the category of AP Computer Science Principles.

“This award, to us, is huge,” Marion Regional Career Center Director Nate McNeely said. “It’s big for the students and it’s big for us. One of the goals with STEM is to make sure we are offering programs out there for students and giving them opportunities.

“For us to win an award like this means that what we are doing is working. Our attempts to make sure we are offering a diverse offering and recruiting in a way that is appealing to a female audience is huge. Computer science is growing, and will continue to grow. This honor is a token of us doing what we need to be doing at Marion High School.”

The College Board introduced the program in 2016, and its intent was to entice more students to get involved in computer science classes, particularly those in underrepresented student populations, such as African-American, Hispanic, and female. From that idea, the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles class was born, and it has achieved rousing success at Marion High School.

“I really like the contest because it addresses a lot of things that students don’t normally get out of computer science or understand what they need,” MHS Computer Science and Mathematics Teacher David Spargo said. “It’s more of a practical process. “It opens up students’ awareness of the reality of things like social media, programming, and the influences that those types of things can have on everyday people.

“This class can be useful for any student that takes it,” Spargo added. “It helps students become more aware of the realities of (computer science). It makes them a smarter technology user, and we will need that. We all need to be intelligent with technology, and we need to be aware of how technology affects others around us.”

According to the data, a greater proportion of students who take AP Computer Science Principles are female, Hispanic, or African-American. Additionally, in the Class of 2019, AP CSP was the first AP STEM course for more than half of African-American students (68 percent) and Hispanic students (59 percent) taking AP courses.

While MHS has done a great job of promoting AP CSP to its underrepresented populations, McNeely believes that the success of the program is due to its all-inclusive approach.

“That’s where the benefit has been for us. It’s been an all-inclusive approach, and it’s been an all-inclusive program,” McNeely said. “Word of mouth is your best recruiter, so when you can have a couple kids from any demographic that have a good experience, they are going to tell their friends, and that’s going to help build our program.”

Going forward, McNeely hopes that the class will continue to grow, and that more and more students will continue to find their calling in the ever-expanding field of computer science.

“We just need to continue to be on the forefront with what is happening with computer science,” McNeely said. “That’s something at Marion High School and at Marion Regional Career Center that we focus on. I think if we continue to do that, it will continue to draw students, and it will continue to draw the individuals we want into the program.”

Grant County pair arrested on various drug-related charges



Early on Tuesday morning, a warrant service by Indiana State Police Trooper Edward Titus, together with officers from the Marion Police Department, resulted in the arrests of Chelsie Bowen, 28, Marion, and Andrew Weaver, 40, Converse.

At approximately 1:15 a.m., Titus was on routine patrol when he observed Bowen driving a 2014 Chevrolet Impala on Baldwin Avenue near 9th Street. Titus had received information that Bowen was wanted on arrest warrants issued from Grant County. Prior to Titus getting into position to stop the Impala, Bowen parked in a driveway at 822 W. Mason Boulevard and went inside the residence.

Titus applied for and was granted a search warrant for the residence and the Impala. Officers from the Marion Police Department arrived to assist. Shortly after, they entered the home and found Bowen hiding inside a crawlspace in the basement. During a further search of the residence, officers allegedly found

methamphetamine, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. Weaver was also found inside the home.

Weaver and Bowen were both incarcerated in the Grant County Jail. Weaver was arrested on charges for assisting a criminal, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, maintaining a common nuisance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bowen was wanted on Grant County arrest warrants for reentry court violation on original charges of resisting law enforcement – drawing or using a deadly weapon and resisting law enforcement. She also faces additional charges for visiting a common nuisance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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ion.

Rocky W. McComas, 42, was preliminarily charged with failure to appear in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Steven M. Owens, 29, was preliminarily charged with resisting law enforcement, driving while suspended, reckless driving, and possession of paraphernalia

during a traffic stop at 34th and Washington streets, Marion.

Adam Keith Enyeart, 35, was preliminarily charged with domestic battery in the 1000 block of East 28th Street, Marion.

Saturday, March 6

Jeffrey Matthew Adamson, 47, was preliminarily charged with nonsupport

of a dependent child in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Ray A. Lowery, 62, was preliminarily charged with driving while suspended during a traffic stop at 18th and Boots streets, Marion.

Leslie Rene Musick, 39, was preliminarily charged with driving while suspended during a traffic stop at Spencer

and Park, Marion.

Sunday, March 7

Roger T. Fox, 52, was preliminarily charged with resisting law enforcement and disorderly conduct in the 1400 block of South Michigan Ave., Marion.

David L. Moore, 47, was preliminarily charged with unlawful possession of a syringe and resisting law enforcement during a check at Sherman and Meridian streets, Marion.


Erica Kay Walker, 20, was preliminarily charged with possession of marijuana during a traffic stop at 34th and Washington streets, Marion.

Zachary Ty Robinson, 22, was preliminarily charged with possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia during a traffic stop at Lancelot and Braewick, Marion.

Puzzle answers

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