**For Immediate Release: [1/25/2021]**

**Hampden Charter School of Science West Earns College Board AP**® **Computer Science Female Diversity Award**

*Recognized for Closing the Gender Gap in AP Computer Science Principles*

[West Springfield, Massachusetts] – Hampden Charter School of Science West has earned the College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls’ access in AP Computer Science courses.

Out of the 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, 1,119 achieved either 50% 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 school year. That’s nearly 37% more than the 818 schools recognized last year. In 2020, Hampden Charter School of Science West was one of 831 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science Principles.

According to the data, **female** **students who take AP CSP in high school are more than 5 times as likely to major in computer science in college**,compared to similar female students who did not take CSP. The study also finds AP CSP students are nearly twice as likely to enroll in AP CSA, and that for most students, AP CSP serves as a stepping-stone to other advanced AP STEM coursework.

Hampden Charter School of Science West is a tuition free public charter school serving students from Westfield, West Springfield, Agawam and Holyoke. For more information about upcoming events, please visit: <https://west.hampdencharter.org/>