September 27, 2016

TechNet Thanks Governor Brown for Signing Bill into Law to Develop Computer Science Strategic Implementation Plan

Sacramento — TechNet, the national, bipartisan network of innovation economy CEOs and senior executives, today thanked Governor Jerry Brown for signing into law AB 2329, legislation that would develop a comprehensive plan for computer science education across the state.

"Computer science is the foundation of the modern, technology-driven economy," said Linda Moore, president and CEO of TechNet. **"By approving this legislation, California has taken a giant leap forward in making sure it has a plan for scaling computer science to every school and every community in the state. On behalf of our membership, I thank Governor Brown for being a champion of computer science and signing this legislation into law."**

Sponsored by Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla, AB 2329 would establish a diverse advisory panel to develop a statewide computer science strategic implementation plan.

"Computer science for all students in California has to become more than a good idea," said Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla. **"AB 2329 will develop the strategy to make it a reality. With a collaborative effort between educators and industry, students will be better prepared for maximizing learning opportunities and for the workforce they will be entering."**

"California currently has tens-of-thousands of open computing jobs where salaries are significantly higher than the state average, but our education system is not aligned to meet this workforce need and economic opportunity," said Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom. **"With the Governor's signature, California is taking a step toward expanding computer science education and taps into an industry of prosperity and upward social mobility where, for the first time, the state has a plan to ensure that students of all backgrounds can participate in a modern workforce where advanced computing skills are in high demand."**

The Importance of Computer Science

By 2018, more than half of all science and technology jobs are projected to be in computer science-related fields. Yet only one in four high schools offer computer science, and in many schools, girls and students of color are underrepresented.

Across the country, there is a sense of urgency to expand computer science education. Large urban school districts, including Chicago, New York, and Oakland, have unveiled ambitious plans to integrate computer science in K-12 education. And, states, including Arkansas and Idaho, are allowing students to count computer science toward high school graduation requirements.

AB 2329

This legislation ensures that California will have a statewide computer science strategic implementation plan that considers the following issues:
- Who can teach computer science and with what credentials;
- How to increase the pool of teachers;
- What computer science standards drive instruction; and
- How to encourage students to take computer science classes.

This legislation also ensures that there is engagement from multiple stakeholders, including parents, teachers, students, the tech industry, advocates, policymakers, and leaders from state and local government.

TechNet's California Executive Director Andrea Deveau co-authored an op-ed in the *Sacramento Bee* on the importance of passing this legislation with Julie Flapan, executive director of the Alliance for California Computing Education for Students and Schools. Linda Moore published an op-ed in *TechCrunch* on the need for computer science education across the country.

AB 2329 Support

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