

# News Release

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools

Educating our students to reach their full potential



**DISTRICT 196**  
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## District 196 students among honorees for women in computing awards

ROSEMOUNT, Minn. – Nine District 196 high school students are among the 37 young women selected to receive a 2019 Minnesota Aspirations for Women in Computing Award from the Minnesota State Information Technology Center for Excellence and the National Center for Women and Information Technology.

The annual award celebrates the efforts of young high school women in their pursuit of technology education and career opportunities. As part of this recognition, the students are eligible for job shadowing experiences, paid internship opportunities and cash awards.

The students from District 196 who were selected state or national winners, or honorable mention recipients are **Olivia Alberts, Lara Erdmann, Shaza Hussein** and **Shayla Lunn** from Rosemount High School, and **Nora Dixon, Grace Hansen, Anusha Sharma, Corinn Sievwright** and **Prapthi Jayesh Sirkay** from Eagan High School.

In addition to the nine award winners, 10 District 196 students were selected as Certificate of Distinction or Rising Star honorees. The Certificate of Distinction honorees are **Lisa Lee** of Apple Valley High School; **Mikayla Joa, Livvy Johnson** and **Rani Shah** of Eagan High; **Harita Duggirala** and **Akansha Kamineni** of Eastview High School, and **Sydney Essler, Regan Hansen** and **Kaitlin McKenzie** of Rosemount High. **Ashley Chen** of Eagan High was named a Rising Star honoree.

The award winners and honorees will be recognized at the Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Award ceremony April 17. Eagan High School teacher **George Behnke** will also be recognized as an honorable mention recipient in the educator category.

Brief profiles of the state and national award winners and honorable mention recipients from District 196 follow.



**Olivia Alberts**, senior, Rosemount High

Olivia is a state winner and a 2018 Certificate of Distinction recipient. Her passions include Mandarin Chinese and computer science. She leads Rosemount High School's Hack Club, a computer science club teaching beginners the basics of computer science and igniting them with a passion for the subject. Olivia plans to attend college to pursue a career in computer science and international business.



**Nora Dixon**, sophomore, Eagan High

Nora is a state honorable mention recipient and received a Certificate of Distinction in 2018. She is involved with Technovation and FIRST Tech Challenge robotics. Her Technovation team, Computer Glitz, has been a world semifinalist twice. She has planned and led many events for young girls to participate in hands-on STEM learning.



**Lara Erdmann**, senior, Rosemount High

Lara is a state honorable mention recipient and a 2018 Certificate of Distinction recipient. She is in her second year of computer science and is taking a number of Advanced Placement, College in the Schools and dual-enrollment courses. Lara is planning to major in computer science with a minor in sociology of law, criminology and deviance.



**Grace Hansen**, senior, Eagan High

Grace is a national honorable mention recipient. She was also honored as a 2018 national honorable mention recipient and state winner, a 2017 state honorable mention recipient and a 2016 Certificate of Distinction recipient. Grace discovered her passion for engineering in second grade when she started building LEGO robots, and she has been on a FIRST Robotics team ever since. Currently, Grace is a programmer, builder and driver of the wheels on The Green Girls robotics team. Grace plans to major in mechanical engineering and product design.



**Shaza Hussein**, senior, Rosemount High

Shaza is a national honorable mention recipient and was also honored as a 2018 state winner. Whether it be participating in the invention fair as a child or gaining experience in engineering by incorporating technology like conductive thread into clothing to create “smart clothing,” she has always had an intense attraction to STEM. Shaza hopes to use these skills throughout her life to pursue her passion in technology and computing and to create a better world.



**Shayla Lunn**, senior, Rosemount High

Shayla is a state honorable mention recipient and received a Certificate of Distinction in 2018. Shayla is passionate about encouraging other young women to be involved with STEM. She teaches a Coding for Girls class for elementary students to encourage them to pursue STEM careers in the future. Following high school, Shayla plans to go to college to study engineering.



**Anusha Sharma**, senior, Eagan High

Anusha is a state winner and 2018 state honorable mention recipient. Her interests were initially sparked by her involvement in the FIRST Robotics program. This helped her grow and understand the depth of technology and engineering, leading her into programming to be able to code and design projects for her robotics team. Anusha plans to pursue a career in computer science.



**Corinn Sievwright**, senior, Eagan High

Corinn is a state winner and received a Certificate of Distinction in 2018. She has always excelled in math and science and found her passion for engineering and technology during her six years on a FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team, The Green Girls. Corinn will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she plans to incorporate her love for technology and computer science into a mechanical engineering career that can improve the lives of others.



**Prapthi Jayesh Sirkay**, sophomore, Eagan High

Prapthi is a state honorable mention recipient. Her appreciation for science was sparked when she joined a FIRST LEGO League team. Her passion for coding continues to grow as she codes an app to help collect donations to organizations this year on her Technovation team, Computer Glitz. Prapthi plans to pursue a career in science and technology.

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*District 196 provides boundless opportunities and infinite possibilities for more than 28,000 students in early childhood, K-12 and adult education programs, as well as community education programs for lifelong learners of all ages. District 196 serves more than 150,000 residents in Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan, Burnsville, Coates, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville and Empire and Vermillion townships in Dakota County, Minnesota. For more information, visit [www.District196.org](http://www.District196.org).*