

SENATE RESOLUTION

8621

By Senators Wellman, Boehnke, Chapman, Cortes, Dhingra, Krishnadasan, Lovelett, Saldaña, Shewmake, Trudeau, Hasegawa, Slatter, and C. Wilson

1 WHEREAS, Women in technology have progressively become a notable
2 portion of the technology workforce, and yet, women have commonly
3 gone underrepresented in technology fields, and struggled to advance
4 to higher positions in their careers, and as a result, professional
5 development and network opportunities are momentous to empower women
6 to excel and advance in their careers; and

7 WHEREAS, IGNITE Worldwide, or Inspiring Girls Now in Technology
8 Evolution, was founded to connect girls and gender-diverse students
9 from underrepresented communities with STEM opportunities during the
10 school day to transform the landscape of women in STEM and generate
11 the momentum and interest in STEM careers; and

12 WHEREAS, IGNITE events increased young female enrollment in STEM
13 classes in Washington by 45 percent in the span of four years between
14 2013 and 2017 by offering programs founded on best practices and
15 proven methods including hands-on, inquiry-based learning, mentoring,
16 and storytelling at no cost to public school districts; and

17 WHEREAS, Women in Cloud is a community led group of women
18 entrepreneurs, professionals, and leaders who are driven towards job
19 creation, diversity and inclusion, and technology innovation, giving
20 women a powerful platform to accelerate as industry leaders; and

21 WHEREAS, Women in Cloud, in 2024 awarded 5,600 AI and
22 cybersecurity certification scholarships, contributing to the
23 professional development of leaders, from historically

1 underrepresented communities, supporting a membership of 120,000
2 individuals across more than 80 countries; and

3 WHEREAS, The EmpowHERaccess Campaign, launched by Women in
4 Cloud, has celebrated over 2,500 women, allies, and
5 organizations and their outstanding technological industry
6 contributions; and

7 WHEREAS, Both of these women led organizations are grounded
8 in an expansive network of mentors and advocates to propel
9 innovation, in order to ensure gender equity;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
11 Senate recognize and commend the foundational accomplishments of
12 Women in Cloud and its founders Chaitra Vedullapalli and Karen
13 Fassio and Inspiring Girls Now in Technology Evolution and its
14 founder Cathi Rodgveller and the influential community of women
15 leaders these initiatives are creating, and the strides being
16 made to increase representation of women leaders in professional
17 and technological fields; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
19 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Women
20 in Cloud, and Inspiring Girls Now in Technology Evolution
21 Worldwide.

22 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
23 do hereby certify that this is a true and
24 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8621,
25 adopted by the Senate
26 March 5, 2025

27 SARAH BANNISTER
28 Secretary of the Senate