**NONTRADITIONAL CAREER NEWS**

Hennepin Technical College & North Hennepin Community College

*Giving support and guidance to women and men who are breaking the gender mold by pursuing a career where the occupation’s workforce is predominately of one gender*

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**Join the Online Network/Support Group for Nontraditional Careers**

Are you looking to connect with a group of students *who, like you, are one of* *few* in your educational program or industry? Meeting face-to-face can be challenging for busy students, but meeting online might be the most effective way in this day and age to connect with others like you who want the extra support and have the desire to grow their networks.

This new online forum can provide the support and ideas needed to continue in your chosen careers. If you are interested in an idea-generating forum, a space to network, and a place to learn skills for success in your future career, email Maria Vittone at mvittone@nhcc.edu and join the group today.

**Why Tech isn’t Friendly for Women YET: Get the Mentoring/Networking Support to Thrive**

**A recent article from *Business Insider* said that 3 out of 4 women in technology careers have considered leaving the field.**  The top reasons for this dissatisfaction included: limited opportunities for advancement, unfair compensation, and few women role models/peer groups. Read the full article at <https://www.businessinsider.com/women-in-tech-consider-leaving-their-jobs-signaling-diversity-problem-2019-10>

But don’t let this stop you frompursuing a career in a top industry! **One of the more important things you can do for yourself is to connect with a supportive network early in your career.** Even if you are in high school or college, it is never to early to establish a network. Here is short list of great organizations for women and students of color in Computer Science and Technology:

1. <https://www.bdpa.org/> **BDPA** has been at the forefront of promoting the **minority agenda** within the IT profession since 1975. BDPA has been a leader and pioneer **in *technology and STEM training for IT*** professionals, college and high school students since 1986. ***See this student section for their cool programs and connect with our Twin Cities Chapter today:*** <https://www.bdpa.org/page/Students>
2. **TWIST** or Target of Women of Science and Technology is a volunteer network of more than 200 women who are passionate about supporting diversity in tech and encouraging more women to pursue STEM careers: <https://twitter.com/targettwist?lang=en>
3. **Girls Develop It (GDA)** provide supportive opportunities for women and non-binary adults to learn software development skills. The Minneapolis chapter provides classes, projects, and events for GDI students to develop confidence and community: <https://www.meetup.com/gdimpls/>
4. **Women Who Code Minneapolis:** <https://www.womenwhocode.com/twincities> Check out all their opportunities to try your hand in coding. (There’s a sister organization called Girls Who Code too.)
5. **Anita B** supports, guides, and inspires women in computing.Check out the curriculum series<https://anitab.org/career-toolbox/curriculum-series/>and their career toolbox<https://anitab.org/career-toolbox/> Get involved with the local Minneapolis chapter.

**Fake it Until You Make It: Communicate with Confidence**

Confidence isn’t a feeling, but a set of behaviors you can change over time and with practice. Whereas, self-esteem is your overall sense of self-worth that is usually built during childhood and takes much longer to change.

Building self-confidence is a process of practicing the way you communicate verbally and nonverbally. Effective communicators practice all the time with different strategies in different situations until they look like they are naturals. **You can become a natural too.**

View this eight-minute video to get some great ideas to improve your confidence immediately:

<https://leanin.org/education/communicating-with-confidence>

Any questions or comments? Email the editor at mvittone@nhcc.edu