

# Expanding Computer Science for All: Innovative Pathways to a Diverse Future

*Discover four initiatives reshaping CS: outreach programs, school partnerships, adult reskilling, and a Women in Tech Day. Panelists share their stories, showcasing how inclusive pathways are driving diversity and transformation in tech education.*

Computer science is a critical driver of innovation, yet the field continues to face challenges in achieving inclusivity and equitable representation. This panel discussion explores four innovative initiatives that are diversifying computer science education in Nova Scotia. Panelists will share insights from four distinct programs aimed at expanding access and fostering pathways for underrepresented groups:

**CS FOR ALL:** Based in the Faculty of Computer Science at Dalhousie University, our student outreach team delivers extracurricular programming to make computer science accessible to diverse learners. By demonstrating how computer science impacts everyday life, this outreach effort is creating educational pathways for a broader population, and nurturing a more inclusive tech future.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOLS:** A pioneering collaboration between Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development offers a dual-credential computer science course for high school students across Nova Scotia. Initially delivered through the Nova Scotia Virtual School, this program provides foundational computer science education and the opportunity for university credit, particularly benefiting students in rural areas who may lack access to such learning opportunities. The initiative aims to build student confidence, bridge the gap to post-secondary education, and empower students to see themselves as future innovators.

**MATRIX CODE:** The Matrix CODE initiative provides a pathway for adult learners from the African Nova Scotian community to develop coding and tech skills, preparing them for entry-level jobs in the technology sector. This program seeks to empower African Nova Scotians by giving them the skills to pursue meaningful employment in an under-resourced industry, ultimately seeking offset the long term affects of racism and oppression through this equitable initiative.

**WOMEN IN TECH DAY:** Women in Tech Day is an empowering event focused on discussing the unique challenges, opportunities, and considerations women face throughout their computer science journey. This initiative offers workshops that create a supportive environment for women in tech, inspiring and encouraging them to pursue their educational and professional goals.

The panel will be led by Dr. Angela Siegel, Assistant Dean (Academic Outreach) from the Faculty of Computer Science at Dalhousie University. Dr. Siegel will introduce these initiatives and then invite the panelists to share their experiences and perspectives on the impact of their participation. Join us for this inspiring discussion on how these initiatives are helping reshape the future of computer science by fostering a more inclusive and diverse pipeline of talent.