NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

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Media Contact: Michael Lukens, Director of Public Affairs and Communications
(661) 654-3526

Debugging the Gender Gap with 'CODE' Screening at CSUB

March 23, 2017 — The California State University, Bakersfield Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science will host a special screening of the award-winning documentary, "CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap," at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 6, in the CSUB Student Housing East Multipurpose Room.

The film, directed and produced by Robin Hauser Reynolds, aims to inspire change in mindsets, the educational system, in startup culture, and in the way women see themselves in the field of coding. It also will highlight efforts producing more diverse programmers and shows how this critical gap can be closed. It also poses the question: What would society gain from having more women and minorities code, and how do we get there?

According to a White House study, there will be one million unfulfilled software engineering jobs in the United States by 2020. Through compelling interviews, artistic animation, and clever flashpoints in popular culture, the documentary examines the reasons why more girls and people of color are not seeking out opportunities in computer science and explores how cultural mindsets, stereotypes, educational hurdles, and sexism play roles in this issue.

The event is sponsored by Edison International, Empower with Code, and CSUB's School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering (NSME).

"Our mission at Empower with Code is to help close the gender gap for women in science and technology. We are accomplishing this by first exposing the problem which will be explored during the documentary," said Rebecca Morfin-Manibo, founder of the Bakersfield-based Empower with Code.

Empower with Code is dedicated to providing girls around the world with the exposure, encouragement, opportunities and platform to achieve successful careers in science and technology. Their goal is to promote gender diversity in that field and provide girls ages 7-18 with a better understanding of careers in those areas. The organization involves engineers, developers, executives, and entrepreneurs to teach and motivate the next generation.

The event is free, but tickets are required and can be acquired via Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/code-debugging-the-gender-gap-at-csub-tickets-32638039254.

For more information about this documentary, please visit Facebook.com/CODEdocumentary, follow @CodeFilm on Twitter or visit the website www.codedoc.co.

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About CSUB

California State University, Bakersfield is a comprehensive public university committed to offering excellent undergraduate and graduate programs that advance the intellectual and personal development of its students. An emphasis on student learning is enhanced by a commitment to scholarship, diversity, service, global awareness and life-long learning. The University collaborates with partners in the community to increase the region's overall educational attainment, enhance its quality of life, and support its economic development. The University was founded in 1965 and opened for classes in fall, 1970. Its vision is to be the leading campus in the CSU system in terms of faculty and academic excellence and diversity, quality of the student experience and community engagement. The University's faculty is world-class, with nearly 75% holding the highest degrees in their respective fields.

The University serves more than 9,500 students between the main campus in Bakersfield and CSUB - Antelope Valley and counts approximately 47,000 alumni from its four schools: Arts and Humanities; Business and Public Administration; Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering; and Social Sciences and Education. The University offers undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate and credential programs, and CSUB's Extended University serves the community by offering additional professional development, certificate, and degree programs.

For more information about CSUB, please visit www.csub.edu.