

Women and Technology



Our vision is to be recognized as a premiere organization for education, scholarships and support for girls and women in Michigan, inspiring them to study and pursue successful careers in technology and technology management.

Women and Technology

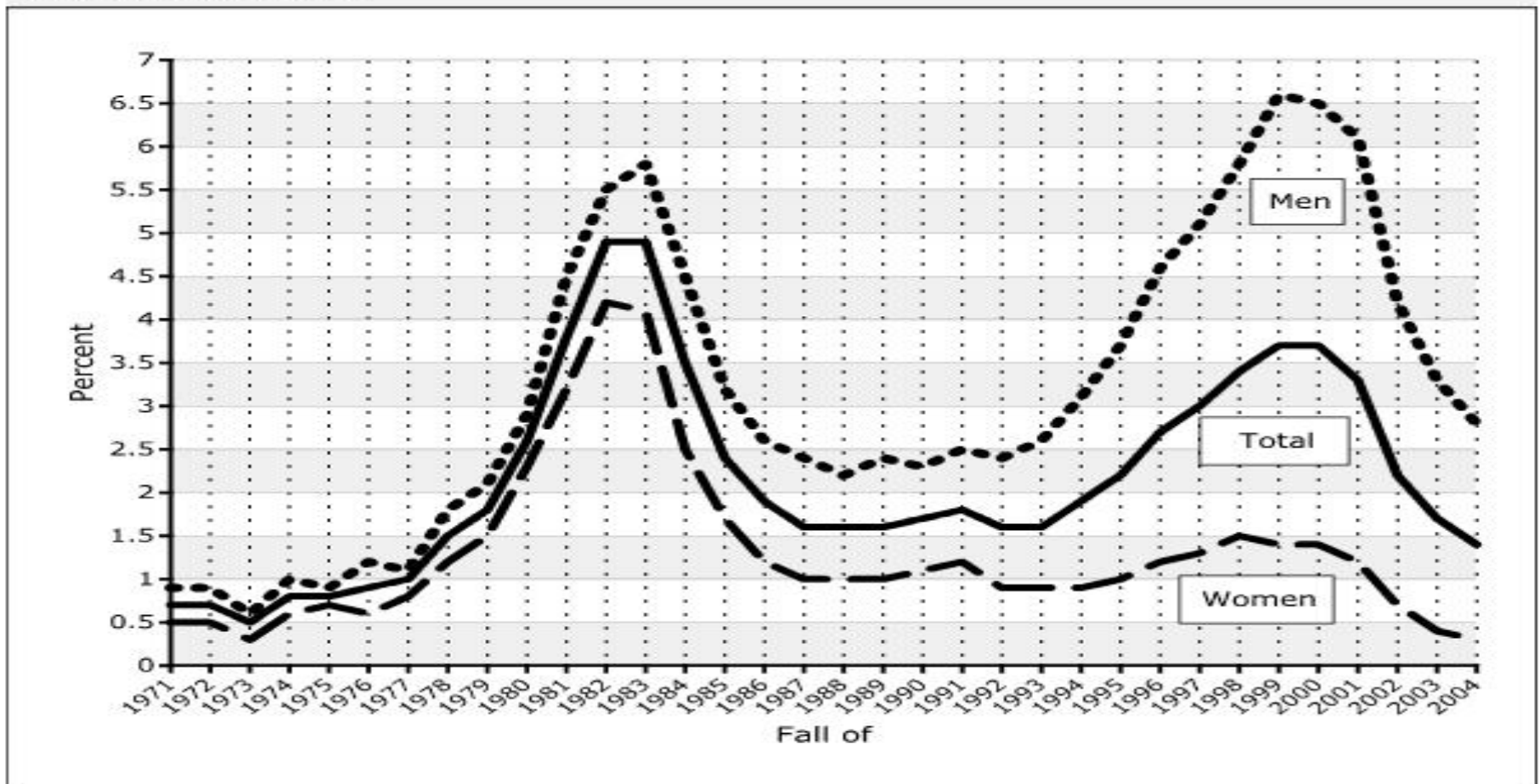


**When equity is the goal, all gaps
in performance warrant attention,
regardless of whether they
disadvantage boys or girls.**

American Association of University Women

- The percentage of incoming undergraduates indicating that they would major in Computer Science (CS) declined by over 60 percent between the Fall of 2000 and 2004, and is now 70 percent lower than its peak in the early 1980s (Figure 1).
- Interest in CS among women fell 80 percent between 1998 and 2004, and 93 percent since its peak in 1982

Figure 1. Computer Science Listed as Probable Major Among Incoming Freshmen
 Source: HERI at UCLA



The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the top five fastest-growing occupations are computer-related. And, according to the Pew Research Center-Internet and American Life Project, if current trends continue, Internet use, within a generation, is likely to equal that of the telephone (94%) or television (98%).

- Unlike most other fields, which have seen women's representation increase over time, the portion of CS degrees granted to women fell in the late 1980s and has yet to return above 30 percent.
- With a fall in degree production looming, it is difficult to see how CS can match expected future demand for IT workers without raising women's participation at the undergraduate level.

Freshmen women's dwindling interest in CS has affected degree production trends (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Portion of Bachelor's Degrees Granted to Women
Source: National Science Foundation. Data were not reported for 1999.

