

2008 Oregon Student Technologist of the Year
Sabrina Houser
North Salem High School



Since a young age, math has fascinated Sabrina. She recalls that her first computer science class in high school challenged her and excited her by combining mathematics with logic and problem solving. Since then, Sabrina has taken every programming class she could fit into her schedule – learning Pascal, C#, AP level C++ and Java.

Sabrina’s nominating teacher, Don Kirkwood, describes Sabrina as someone who possesses both analytical and interpersonal skills. Not only did she win 2nd place and 3rd place in the regional Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competition, but she took the college-prep level Advanced Placement Computer Science Exam.

Sabrina also has experience creating a project with a direct impact on another person. When her grandfather died, Sabrina took over the normal financial paperwork for her grandmother. To meet this need while Sabrina is away at college, she created a program to complete these tasks for her grandmother. Because of the need to make the code very user-friendly and because she wanted to use a language that would be useful for her own future knowledge, Sabrina decided to learn C# to develop this program. Once the project was completed, she then took her newly gained knowledge and formed a presentation to share with her fellow students at the Salem-Keizer-Chemeketa Tech Conference.

Sabrina has been an active participant in North Salem High School’s “No Boys Allowed” (NBA) program that recruits women into technology classes. The focus of NBA is to show that computers can be fun, and that women have a lot of attributes to contribute to the technology field. Since she benefited personally from being involved with this program, Sabrina wanted to help inspire other younger girls to have the same opportunities. Sabrina worked with a team to organize outreach efforts for the NBA program. She worked to organize presentations to take to Houck and Parrish Middle School promoting the conference and encouraging the girls to get excited and attend.

Sabrina is a graduate of North Salem High School. She will attend Seattle Pacific University this fall and major in computer science.