UTAH ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

2020
Circle of
Excellence

Charter School Innovator of the Year

BEEHIVE
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
ACADEMY

Sumeyra Gul,

Beehive Science & Technology

Sumeyra Gul has been a computer science teacher with Beehive Science and Technology Academy since 2016. In March 2019, Ms. Gul was given the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology (UCET) Outstanding Teacher Award. Beehive earned the first College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. As Ms. Gul teaches several computer science classes, including AP Computer Science Principles, this award can in large part be credited to her efforts. Ms. Gul also teaches Digital Media 1 as a high school elective. Ms. Gul incorporated drawing tablets into her curriculum to give real world design experience to her students, and wrote grants to secure the drawing tablets for the school. She oversees the school's two CyberPatriot teams—one coed, and the second one that's all-female. Ms. Gul oversees the Girls Who Code Club, which currently has 13 members. She mentors and encourages her female students to compete for the National Center for Women and Information Technology Award for Aspirations in Computing. As a result, six Beehive students were recognized by the organization since 2019. Ms. Gul is also involved in Beehive's College Mentorship and Leadership Program. According to Beehive's Dean of Academics, Halis Kablan, "Ms. Gul is an innovative teacher who learns emerging educational technology and implements this technology in her classes. She also helps support and train fellow teachers to increase student learning across the school. She has been a pioneer in implementing some creative teaching and learning tools, and in helping other teachers to learn from her best practices through professional learning communities and training. She shares her expertise with other school teachers by inviting them to her classroom and workshops." For her work in computer science education, involving females in STEM activities, and expanding the reach of technology competitions for her students, Ms. Gul is awarded the Innovator of the Year award.