

Computer Prowess

Four students from high schools in the Denver area, described by their instructors as "gifted and ambitious," are demonstrating their computer prowess at the annual conference of the Assn. for Computing Machinery being held this week in Denver.

The computer programs in the demonstration have been created entirely by the students. The four were employed at the Denver office of Control Data Inc. this summer to develop the demonstration.

The four students' abilities are the result of a program which started with 35 students from Denver's George Washington High School in the summer of 1962.

Since that time the Control Data education program has ex-

panded until 150 students from high schools in Denver and Jefferson County are participating.

Plans for the 1963-64 program are more extensive.

R. L. Albrecht, a senior applications analyst for Control Data in Denver, conceived the program and has directed it.

According to Albrecht, it originated after a chance meeting with Irwin Hoffman, a Denver high school mathematics teacher. Albrecht and Hoffman developed the initial program.

In the program as designed by the two, the goal is to "teach mathematics, not computers."

Much of the work in the program has been done as extra-curricular activity on the students' own time before and after classes.

Albrecht said the students quickly learned fundamentals of mathematical analysis after basic demonstrations and lectures. Students developed problem solving procedures, programmed solutions in the FORTRAN computer language and ran their own problems on Control Data's 160A computer. Computer time is provided without cost to the students.

Special work books for the program have been developed. Mathematical problems solved in the program are extremely sophisticated. Two of the students won top prizes in the Denver area Science Fair.

Students have been eager to demonstrate their knowledge, Albrecht said. Many will serve as teachers in this coming year's program.



Denver area high school students gave computer professionals a show Wednesday at the Assn. of Computer Machinery convention under way this week at the Denver Hilton. Students engaged in working a problem given them by one of the professionals on a Control Data Computer are, from left, Alvin Nelson and Robert Kahn of George Washington High School; Larry Davis of Golden High School, and Randy Lewis, also of George Washington.

—Rocky Mountain News Photo by Bob Talkin.