

Discussion Notes from Philadelphia Area Computer Science Educators Meeting
October 26, 2005

HS Concerns

PA requires a Business Ed and Computers certification (not math). State may start enforcing certification more strictly in a few years. For now, current teachers may be grandfathered in.

Students do not perceive CS as being important at the college level admissions

CS not considered part of the core curriculum (e.g. doesn't count towards GPA or NCAA credits)

PR Problem – how do we get CS valued in the school?

CS is about thinking – not about specific skills

Many schools have few female CS students.

- CS vies for students' time
- Girls may be interested in other electives and can't fit CS in

Scheduling issues – too many electives to compete with and not enough time

Getting the word out about what CS classes are all about

- Ideas: LAN parties, activities, information sessions
- Don't have to major in CS in college – CS can help develop skills important for other majors

Computer Science Competitions – to help get students interested (social aspect):

American Computer Science League competitions

St. Bonaventure

UPenn Philly Classic

Drexel interested in starting a competition

Bloomsburg

FIRST robotics competition

FBLA competitions (lots of need for CS participation)

UPenn Workshop on November 12th:

Professor Geoff Washburn and his team of Penn faculty will be presenting the workshops as part of the TECS workshop series. Penn CIS has previously hosted two extremely successful JETT workshops for AP CS teachers, and we are so pleased that they have been willing to turn his attention to pre- and non-AP CS teachers by running a workshop addressing introductory CS concepts.

At the workshop, Dr. Washburn will discuss models of intelligent behaviors (AI, gaming, and robotics) as well as offering an introduction to objects and object-oriented programming (the principles behind the Java programming language.)

Beyond providing meaningful professional development, TECS workshops are a wonderful way to meet your colleagues in the field, and a provide a terrific opportunity to visit Penn's computer labs and meet some of the folks who work there!

There is no fee to attend the workshops, but space is limited, and advance registration is required.

To learn about the program, and to register, please visit <http://tecs.acm.org>.

You can also email or call me directly with any questions about the program.

Sincerely,

Jennifer
JETT/TECS Coordinator
212 626 0507
wroblewski@acm.org

Act 48 credit – will check into for the future

College/University Level Discussions

- There is a difference between working with applications and CS (and programming and CS)
- College advisors/admissions people do not understand CS
- Balance between CS concepts and AP Exam
- Check out Computing Curriculum → CC2001 (see www.sigcse.org)
- Possible visits to HS from college professors, industry computer scientists
- Get the word out to other teachers that are not involved
- Better CS promotion → through professional organizations
- Language credit for programming languages?