Discovery Partners Institute

COMP SCI EDUCATOR

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DPI's Commitment to Computer Science Education

Discovery Partners Institute's Community education Unit believes in intentionally designing and supporting programs that identify key challenges, address friction points, foster a sense of belonging, and build a smoother pathway in guiding historically underrepresented groups into technology career pathways.

We are committed to building holistic programs and strategies that strengthen computer science education and technology driven pathways for K-12 students and feel that this work can only be done in deep collaboration and partnership with educators.

We aspire to:

- Increase the number of highly qualified CS-trained teachers in the state of Illinois
- Build capacity for K-12 educators to learn computer science from introductory courses through advanced topics
- Support the integration of computer science, computational thinking, and data science concepts across the K - 12 curriculum
- Learn directly from educators about their needs and how to best support relevant professional learning

Computer Science Endorsement (CSTed)

The Teaching Endorsement in Computer Science is a five-semester, cohort-based model that meets the Illinois State Board of Education's requirement for obtaining an endorsement in computer science.

- The CSTed is open to Illinois teachers with a current and valid Professional Educator
- License in Grades 5-12
- This pathway includes **one evening class** per semester and **two summer classes**
- All courses take place **online** and are delivered **synchronously**, with ongoing support from UIUC Faculty and DPI Staff
- **Tuition support** may be available

Consider Joining Cohort Four - Summer 2024
Cohort begins - June 10th, 2024
Registration begins – April 10th, 2024
Information sessions (Zoom):
Thursday 3/7 at 6:00pm
Wednesday 4/18 at 5:00pm
Thursday 5/16 at 4:30pm

ISBE Computer Science Education Policy

Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, all school districts that maintain any of grades 9-12 shall provide an opportunity for every high school student to take at least one computer science course aligned to rigorous learning standards set by the State Board of Education.

Computer Science means the study of computers and algorithms, including principles, their hardware and software designs, their implementation, and their impact on society. It does not include the study of everyday uses of computers and computer applications, such as keyboarding or accessing the internet.

Illinois has an urgent and collective responsibility to achieve educational equity by ensuring that all policies, programs, and practices affirm the strengths that each and every child brings.

Meet Your Teacher Training Team at DPI

Danna Dotson
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, TEACHER TRAINING, COMMUNITY EDUCATION
PRITZKER TECH TALENT LABS

As a member of the Discovery Partners Institute, Danna supports initiatives for meaningful and accessible computer science learning opportunities available to educators statewide. In collaboration with the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Danna supports educators interested in enhancing their knowledge of CS instruction throughout their pathway in the Computer Science Endorsement program (CSTed). Danna highly values offering CS development and training and concurrently coordinates teacher-centered professional development learning opportunities at DPI and with DPI partners from across the state.

Danna has led math departments within Chicago Public Schools, developed the computer science department for a CPS high school, and taught Lego Robotics. She is National Board Certified and has presented at the regional and annual National Council of Teachers of Mathematics conferences, the Teachers, Teaching with Technology conference, and the Midwest EdTPA conference.

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Todd McFarlin
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, TEACHER TRAINING, COMMUNITY EDUCATION
PRITZKER TECH TALENT LABS

Todd plays a critical role in implementing the teacher training programs of DPI's Community Education Unit of the Pritzker Tech Talent Labs, focusing on building teacher capacity in computer science and data science/analytics at the high school and community college levels. This includes building a community of practice and supporting collaboration among the teacher-learners in UIUC's CS Teaching Endorsement (CSTed) pathway, as well as coordinating and facilitating teacher-focused professional learning opportunities at DPI.

Prior to joining DPI in December 2021, Todd was a social studies-turned-computer science teacher. He taught an International Baccalaureate course (IB-ITGS) on the study and evaluation of the local and global impacts of information technology on individuals and society, as well as the Exploring Computer Science curriculum, an introductory computer science course with a specific focus on access for historically minoritized students.

Email: tmcfar@uillinois.edu

Upcoming Events

DigLit Con
September 14th, 2023 (in-person) Naperville
September 15th (virtual)

DPI Workshop Series (flyer)
October 1st - 200 E. Wacker
The Chicago Technology Ecosystem
Registration at https://go.illinois.edu/CSworkshops

Illinois Education & Technology Conference 2023
November 1 - 3 Springfield, Illinois

DPI: CS Teacher Toolkit Website
Launching October 1st, 2023

Connect with Discovery Parters Institute:

Join our DPI community - Share your ideas for our upcoming CS workshops and events.
Scan the QR code above or go to https://go.illinois.edu/CSTeachIS