

Upcoming K-12 Computer Science Events

The Hour of Code during CS Education Week

During the first week of December 2013, over 18,000 Alabama students (and over 20million internationally) participated in the Hour of Code, which provided a first experience of computer programming for students. The event is back again with even more activities planned. For example, one school from every state will receive a \$10k gift, and one class in the US will be flown to DC for a very special high-profile event. Furthermore, many celebrities (e.g., actors and musicians) and famous computer scientists (e.g., Bill Gates) will be linked live to several classrooms.

This year the hour of code takes place during the week of December 8-14. More information about the Hour of Code can be found at: <http://csedweek.org/>

Code.org K-5 Professional Development Workshops

Throughout Alabama, Code.org is sponsoring several free professional development workshops for K-5 teachers (primarily 3rd-5th grade) to introduce a new curriculum for computer science that is aligned to multiple standards. The curriculum provides an online environment for students to learn computer programming in a fun way, as well as kinesthetic “unplugged” activities to demonstrate concepts of computation.



At each free workshop, participants receive the following:

- 7 hours of professional development with a completion certificate from Code.org
- A 200 page textbook focused on the K-5 curriculum with many exercises and activities
- A Code.org “Swag Bag”
- A catered lunch
- Access to free online course management resources on Code.org to monitor the progress of a whole class

To find out more about these workshops, please visit the following web page at Code.org and watch the video: <http://code.org/educate/k5>

Attached is a sample flyer for the Tuscaloosa workshops that explains some details about the workshop. There are several other workshops scheduled across Alabama. There is also strong interest to find hosts for workshops in Montgomery and Mobile and other school districts interested in hosting an event. Please contact Dr. Jeff Gray (gray@cs.ua.edu) if you would like more information about an upcoming workshop, or would like to bring a workshop to your area.

Below are the dates for upcoming workshops. We hope to schedule a lot more in other parts of the state soon:

December 5, 2014 : Mt. Brook Schools	January 26, 2015 : Hoover City Schools
December 8, 2014 : Tuscaloosa City Schools	January 29, 2015 : Huntsville (at UAH)
December 11, 2014 : Pelham City Schools	January 30, 2015 : Decatur
December 12, 2014 : Pelham City Schools	February 4, 2015 : Tuscaloosa City Schools

NSF Grant to Support Professional Development for CS Principles (a new College Board AP course)

CS4Alabama

The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$1M grant to the University of Alabama and A+ College Ready to provide year-long professional development to high school teachers in preparation for a new College Board AP exam in computer science. Over 50 teachers will receive a stipend for their participation, equipment funds for their school, and travel expenses to attend face-to-face PD. There are also opportunities and funds available for students of the participating teachers. Each participant will be engaged in a community of practice with peer teachers across the state who are also preparing to offer this new course. The new CS Principles course counts as a math elective for high school graduation in Alabama and will be an official AP exam in the 2016-2017 school year.

More details are available in the attached flyer. Applications for the 2015 cohort are due in early January 2015 with notifications sent out in early February. For more information, contact Dr. Jeff Gray (gray@cs.ua.edu) or Mary Boehm (marydboehm@bellsouth.net).



Teachers Participating in the Summer 2014 CS Principles Professional Development Workshop