

BEAUTY AND JOY OF COMPUTING

What is this all About??

In 2009, the National Science Foundation (NSF) started the CS10K program with a goal to establish "rigorous academic computing courses taught in 10,000 high schools by 10,000 well-prepared teachers".

The CS 10K initiative started by defining an exciting new curriculum, Computer Science Principles (CSP) that focuses on 1) increased enrollment and diversity among students in CS courses and 2) principles that encompass the breadth of computer science as contrasted to the almost total focus on programming inherent in the CS A Advanced Placement (AP) exam. In the 2016-2017 academic year, CSP will become the focus of a new CS AP exam to join the current CS A AP exam.

Colleges initiating CSP courses will attract students who pass the CSP AP exam based upon their high school courses. And by having colleges support CSP AP, more local high schools will, in turn, be likely to include CSP in their curriculum. Such a positive feedback loop can only benefit students both in high schools and at colleges teaching CSP.

To encourage as many high schools and community colleges as possible to adopt a CS Principles (CSP) course, the University of North Texas Computer Science and Engineering department is planning to offer a professional development workshop for a CSP course called the Beauty and Joy of Computing (BJC) in the Summer of 2017. One possibility is to provide an additional workshop at the Summer 2017 Working Connections meeting to focus on community colleges that wish to include a CSP course in their curriculum.

The BJC course was developed at University of California, Berkeley by Professors Dan Garcia and Brian Harvey. A version of BJC has been taught at UNT each semester since Spring 2014.



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