

## **“Computer Science Education Week” Makes its Debut**

The first-ever Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) will be launched December 5<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and its partners: the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA), the Computing Research Association (CRA), NCWIT, the Anita Borg Institute, the National Science Foundation (NSF), Google Inc., Intel, and Microsoft. According to the ACM, 5 of the top 10 fastest growing jobs are in computing-related fields, and government projections show that more than 800,000 high-end computing jobs will be created in the economy by 2016, making it one of the fastest growing occupational fields. However, the percent of schools with rigorous high school computer courses fell from 40% in 2005 to 27% in 2009. Additionally, the percent of high schools with introductory computer science courses decreased from 78% in 2005 to 65% in 2009.

CSEdWeek aims to raise awareness of computing and its role in society. ACM affirms that computer science is a “critical element of the national science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) movement that instills computation and computational thinking- knowledge necessary for success in the digital age.” The importance of computer science education will be highlighted during CSEdWeek for several reasons:

- Computer science provides engaging way to expose students to critical thinking, a key skill for students entering any career
- Computer science instills understanding of computation and computational thinking for success in the digital age
- As the role and significance of computing has grown, the teaching of computer science in K-12 has faded
- Too few students have opportunities to take engaging, rigorous computer science in high school
- There is little ethnic and gender diversity among those who do have opportunities
- Teacher certification for computer science teachers is broken across the states
- Confusion exists between computer science and information technology literacy
- There is too little innovation in creating appropriate curricula for students.

According to John White, CEO of ACM, “We need to make a concrete connection in people’s minds between the reality and the need to focus on computing knowledge in K-12 classrooms. The conversation about computer science education speaks directly to the issues of innovation, competitiveness, and a healthy future.”

“Providing students with high level computer science skills is essential if they are going to thrive in the new global economy,” said Chris Stephenson, executive director of the CSTA. “Our educational system needs to acknowledge that point by ensuring that all students have the opportunity to take rigorous computer science courses in high school and by providing teachers with the ongoing learning they need to keep up with the discipline.”

More information about CSEdWeek can be found at the website, below, and contains computer science data, research, curriculum guides, posters and brochures.

**On the Web:** [www.csedweek.org](http://www.csedweek.org)

To view all of the latest *STEM Trends* articles, click [here](#).

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