

Attendees: Chris Blaszczynski, Jackie Corricelli, Elizabeth Dillard, Melissa Fearington, Seth Freeman, Patrice Gans, Christopher Kerr, Bradley Kjell, Evan Sayles, Norman Sondheimer, Chinma Uche

- I. Introductions: attendees shared new updates
- II. Chris Kerr: led yoga to fix neck tension
- III. Patrice Gans: Thursday, May 16: Congressional App Challenge - 2:30-3:30 at Rm 310 in Legislative Building:
 - A. looking for someone to take pictures, greet people when they come (legislators will be in session, come out for short periods to acknowledge students; we need help to coordinate partnering legislator with student winners) - Seth will help - please plan to attend next year if possible
 - B. Norm Sondheimer: entries need to be in the start of the school year. At end of school year, could have students do Congressional App Challenge and go for it for the following year.
 1. Could be prep schools or public school.
 2. Could use any language: python, swift, app inventor,... Judges are CS teachers.
 3. Each Congressional District invites people to judge.
- IV. Seth Freeman - CS4CT Summit Update:
 - A. Committee will discuss opening to teachers (not just admin)
 - B. Pushed date due to lack of signups from admin; difficult to recruit while teachers were more eager for training
 - C. Made progress with vendors
 - D. There were still strategies to try but still not same level of engagement from admin
 - E. Code.org and governor expressed commitment; governor promised to attend and would invite superintendents
 - F. Goal was 200 - were not coming close to that goal
 - G. Chinma shared: Sacred Heart is hosting admin meeting on May 21 - flyer - we need to decide what we are doing; view is still need teachers
- V. Norm Sondheimer - representing advocacy group
 - A. Wants to have "CS Teachers" in same way that there are other subject teachers
 - B. This means from certification to ARC to pre-service to sense that CS is "normal" (not an elective; for everyone everywhere)
 - C. There is a law that went into effect that says CS must be offered - there are 6500 students that take it; there are 45000 that take chem; have been working to resolve
 - D. Got their first hearing - Bill that came out originally - Betsy, Chinma, Norm, Darcie, Winnie, STEM Coord from Canton testified and convinced Senator to take up CS - Governor's office in engaged - another bill was introduced (8 pages, only some got through)
 - E. Vote by June 5 to pass bill
 - F. Governor's office is fighting to get funds for PD and with that, oversight - to train schools that do not have Computer Science (52% offer CS)
 - G. Goal: course in computer science (more than computer literacy) for all students
 - H. Working for K-12 alignment with CSTA Standards
 - I. Chinma added: for the first time chair of education committee brought in deans of college to ask what they needed to make it happen
 1. they said that they need space for more things in curriculum - when asked when it was last updated, they said "1998" - decided on agreement to have revision to include CS
 2. If could support this via conference in fall
 3. President of CT Assoc of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) told we need review of education in state and CS should be there
- VI. Chris Kerr - Student Teaching Assistant Program
 - A. How can I smooth out learning curve and differentiate for many needs in classroom?

- B. View presentation: bit.ly/2U0JLaQ
- C. "What if I could have a collegiate level lab assistant?"
- D. Found no research on secondary level CS assistants
- E. Steps:
 1. Find good fits for program - not best coders, but good; good social skills
 2. Training student teacher assistants - week before school starts - treat like they are professionals (teammates), they do student teaching (modeling; those students show IDE for example) - they do a "philosophy statement" as part of their application
 3. What happens during semester? Teacher-initiated, student-initiated - they are really great at reminding you at what are blind-siding your students (your student teacher will help you remember/identify misconceptions) - consider recording them and reflecting with them about recording
 4. At end? Advertise to existing AP and start selecting candidates - need students that can have independent study during cs course (went from 7 to 4)
- F. Incentives: give them a credit, exemption from a senior duty or earns community service hours, independent study
- G. Benefits: model creative thinking, culture of communication, benefit to socially disadvantaged students (teacher could address needs more directly), gave students someone else to talk to, social learning model, deeper understanding of course content for STA
- H. Melissa Farrington - shared how some will TA in courses, especially when content runs out - really helpful to have students help
- I. What would he change?
 1. Formalize student training for week before
 2. Customize training for course
- J. Chinma idea - what about formalized program for teachers to benefit so students are recognized for what they do?

VII. Betsy Dillard - asking us to brainstorm about next year - what did you like and how can you be a part of it?

- A. Betsy is looking to get funding for grant
 1. For summit, Seth needs help
 2. If training, she needs help
 3. Considering curriculum? Want to learn to advocate? Needs from local universities? We can offer all of that here!
- B. Grab a friend - please consider inviting a friend/colleague/college student/admin
- C. Melissa F: would love to see National Honor Society support
 1. CSTA is taking over
 2. Betsy/Chris will research at CSTA Conference
 3. Bradley handles at Central and can help us
- D. Chinma: just had meeting with Processing (P5) - they contacted us and worked with Heather and Chinma to do page for CT Teachers but we have not spoken about since then; maybe next year - if yes, could have virtual meeting with them - they would be able to share for 15 min in September (could maybe use to run a club)
- E. Betsy: artificial intelligence group from Carnegie Mellon; she would like help - Evan will partner toward this initiative
- F. Seth: will be in touch about summit
- G. Chris: need ongoing value added to career - need to continue offering learning from each other
- H. Add Programming Contests, Resource Guide for teachers starting from scratch
- I. Will offer question to all members - look in your inbox for this question