The University of Northern Iowa Partnership for CS Teacher Preparation

The University of Northern Iowa Partnership for CS Teacher Preparation currently consists of the University of Northern Iowa CS Education program, Central Rivers AEA, and four school districts. We are looking to expand that number to approximately 20 school districts from northeast Iowa.

Originally founded in 2017 as a National Science Foundation Research Practitioner Partnership (RPP) the partnership is the recent recipient of a two-year CSForAll grant. The goal of the partnership is to provide teachers with high-quality professional development in computer science while gathering evaluation data from the teachers and, eventually, their students.

Through the partnership the University of Northern Iowa CS Education program will provide:

- Low cost instruction for four, three-credit, graduate workshop courses appropriate for license renewal and for use towards the pending CS teaching endorsement from the Iowa BOEE
  - Fundamentals of Programming (Summer 2018)
  - Teaching and Learning of Programming (2018-2019 School Year)
  - Algorithms and Data Structures (Summer 2019)
  - Foundational Concepts of Computer Science (2019-2020 School Year)
- Funding for 25 teachers including stipends to cover tuition, mileage to in-person meetings, textbooks, and compensation for each in-person meeting attended.

School districts accepted in to the partnership will:

- Identify at least one teacher per high school to participate in the program [One teacher per high school will be automatically covered by teacher stipends. Additional teachers are welcome and may be covered based on availability.]
- Send at least one administrator and one guidance counselor to a one-day workshop during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Offer an “appropriate” CS course in their district no later than the 2019-2020 academic year.
- Facilitate the administration of research instruments (surveys, benchmark exams, etc.) to students in the CS class(es) offered by the district as a result of the partnership.
- Share student population demographics and aggregate academic information (by gender, race, socio-economic status, etc.) at both a school and course level.

School districts interested in becoming members of the partnership should complete the online application at csed.uni.edu no later than April 30, 2018 for full consideration.

For additional information contact Dr. Ben Schafer at s Schafer@cs.uni.edu or 319-273-2187.