Undergraduate Recruitment and Retention
University of California, Irvine
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January – March 2006

Summary

We continued to work with NCWIT social scientists, Lecia Barker and Joanne Cohoon, to complete analysis and modification of the survey instrument for current undergraduate students. The updated version of the survey instrument will be administered during spring quarter 2006. Our development team completed another iteration of the prototype collaborative workspace. The team migrated the prototype onto a UCIrvine server, stabilized the underlying code, added functionality, established initial connections with the NEEDS.org digital library and produced initial user documentation.

Our next goals are to produce a report (in collaboration with NCWIT social scientists) based on the initial administration of the survey instrument, field test the modified version of the survey instrument, seed the collaborative workspace with an initial population of effective practices (e.g., Contextualized Computing Education, Pair Programming and Mentoring), continue interviews with leading interventionists and continue to seek additional funding.

Milestone	Target Date	Status
Survey tool used to understand current institutional context – web-based tool available for AA	June 2006	Initial data analysis continues and second iteration of survey tool under development with input from NCWIT social scientists (phone consultation with NCWIT social scientist on 2/28/06 to discuss design); anticipate administration of this version during spring quarter 2006
Collaborative workspace to support discussion on effective practices – second iteration	April 2006	Completed March 23, 2006. Currently working on 3rd iteration.
Collaborative workspace populated with initial set of effective practices	May 2006	Continue to collect materials on pair programming, computing in context and mentoring
Ongoing report on experimental plans at UCI	June & December 2006	
Field-test web-based survey	Spring 2006	After consultation with NCWIT social scientists, we decided to field another iteration of the paper-based survey before moving to the web version.

Publication of results from initial UCI surveys	June 2006	Plans to meet with NCWIT social scientist late April to continue data analysis and initial drafts
Web-based survey tool available to Academic Alliance	July 2006	Usability studies for improved UI and features are being scheduled
Set of interviews with leading interventionists available to Academic Alliance	July 2006	Scheduling of interviews continues
Another survey tool aimed at first year undergraduates	August 2006	
Collaborative workspace to include promising-looking activities in context	September 2006	
Overview/workbook of key steps for replicating effective practices	December 2006	
Seek additional funding	Ongoing	

Activities and Findings

We completed the second iteration of the prototype collaborative workspace. We are editing and refining accompanying support information, e.g., system specifications and information for users. Usability studies for improved UI (user interface) and additional features are being scheduled.

We consulted with the NCWIT social scientists about the design for the second iteration of the context survey. We used data from the open-ended questions in the first iteration to design forced-answer questions for the second iteration. In addition, we plan to include a section of questions from a survey fielded by one of the NCWIT social scientists at her home institution. This will provide comparative data for both institutions.

Outreach Activities

The project scientist participated in the Career Day event at McGarvin Intermediate School, Westminster, CA. She made six thirty-minute presentations focused on debunking the common myth of the lone-geek-sitting-in-a-cubicle-staring-at-a-computer-monitor-while-dining-on-cold-pizza-and-soda. (There were approximately 30 students in each presentation session.) Most were very surprised and delighted to learn about the many possibilities inherent in a computer science degree.

The PI is faculty advisor and the project scientist is a mentor for the UCIrvine Women in Computer Science (WICS) student club, a project of ABRC. WICS organized and hosted "Dinner with the Dean." Bren School women faculty, the PI, the project scientist and women undergraduate students were invited to a casual catered dinner event. Each of the faculty, the PI, and the project scientist were asked to share their experiences in computer

science. Students asked questions, joined in the laughter and got to see the faculty in a different light.

The project scientist participated in a week-long workshop focused on diversity issues in Orange County.

Publications and Specific Products

Panel Proposal for Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing 2006: "A Framework for Changing Undergraduate Computer Sciences Curriculum and Teaching"
Proposed panelists: Lecia Barker, Mark Guzdial, Suzanne Schaefer, Laurie Williams
Proposed moderator: Debra Richardson
Submitted March 22, 2006

Panel Proposal for Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing 2006: "Another Ride on the Crazy Train: Work/Life 'Balance'"
Proposed panelists: Barbara Waugh, Erin Bradner, Melanie Martin, Andre van der Hoek, Michael Goodrich
Proposed Moderator: Suzanne Schaefer
Submitted March 22, 2006

Matching Funding

We are actively looking for private funding as well as planning to revise and resubmit three NSF proposals that were submitted in 2005 but declined.