

Community Engaged Computer Science

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GE-330



Project & Goals

- Provide opportunities for CS students to become active in the community
- Develop curriculum where student engagement with community partners is fostered
- Ultimately provide community partners with access to effective technology solutions

Outcomes:
CS students have direct impact with community partners

Background & Critical Issue

- Technology is becoming increasingly more important. Many community partners do not have access to technology that can expedite their missions and create a wider, more effective array of influence
- We have found a need for technology solutions in the community & Whitworth has CS students with the skills to solve these problems

Partner Organization

I have been working closely with the Whitworth University Computer Science department. I anticipate working with various partner organizations soon.

What I Did

- This is a multi-level project; so far, I have been able to generate faculty backing for this project .
- I spent time analyzing our current CS department and ways to make it more community engagement focused
- Created a foundation for future work to be done

What I Learned

Companies & Organizations that do not have reliable technology solutions are quickly falling behind

Most non-profit organizations do not have the resources to buy these technology solutions

Connecting students with technical expertise with community organizations who need solutions without paying market price can give students the entrance they need to engaged CS work AND let community partners engage and influence a wider array of people

Also allows for these organizations to focus on their missions rather than technology problems



Caption: Whitworth CS students



What is Next

As a result of this experience, I am committed to making the dream of having a community engaged computer science department a reality.

I hope to connect students with community partners where effective solutions can be created that benefit the entire community.

Civic Perspective

The mission of Whitworth University is to provide students with an education of mind and heart

In certain academic areas; an education of heart is easy to acquire. However, Computer Science is typically an area that falls behind.

Encouraged CS students to use their technical skills for the greater good (Education of Heart)

Project & Goals

I am currently working towards giving students the opportunity to use their technical skills in computer science to solve real world problems facing the community

I am learning product management skills which are critically important for a CS graduate to obtain

Vocational Discernment

Real world work experience is highly valuable for CS graduates

Students can understand the workflow of completing projects real-time

Work on issues that are important to them (i.e., Water Security, Education etc..)



Caption: Whitworth CS student working