

Google CS Engagement Small Grants Program

Introduction

Google believes in the importance of preparing the next generation of computer scientists. Recent enrollment data suggests that, while the overall number of students in introductory computer science courses continue to climb, the number of students who go on to complete undergraduate degrees in this field, particularly women and other under-represented minorities, does not match this increase in individual course enrollment. In particular, we are finding that while students may begin a CS program, retaining these students after their first year remains an issue, one that is not necessarily related to talent or preparedness. In fact, research indicates that one of the strongest factors in the retention of students in undergraduate CS degrees is early exposure to engaging courses and course material, such as high quality assignments that are meaningful and relevant to the student's life or classroom activities that encourage student-to-student interaction.

About EngageCSEdu

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) and Google have partnered on a project with the goal of retaining a more diverse student body in computer science programs by helping educators find and share engaging CS1 and CS2 teaching materials. [EngageCSEdu](#), which is owned and managed by NCWIT, applies research-backed learnings on engagement practices to the resources that can be found there, and integrates these practices deeply into the website itself. We hope that EngageCSEdu will be a valuable resource to educators teaching Computer Science at the post-secondary level, and that the community will actively consume and contribute their own teaching materials to the project.

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We believe that engaging courses keep students excited and encourage them to complete their undergraduate CS degree. To this end, Google has created the CS Engagement Small Grants Program to support educators teaching introductory CS courses in reaching their engagement and retention goals. Unrestricted gifts of \$5000 will be given to the selected applicants' universities, towards the execution of an engaging CS1 or CS2 course in the 2014-2015 school year. Educators who are teaching CS1 and CS2 courses at the post-secondary level are encouraged to apply to the Google CS Engagement Small Grants Program. Applications will be accepted through **November 15, 2014** and will be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

[Application Form](#)

Eligibility

Google CS Engagement Awards are open to faculty or staff at accredited colleges and universities in the United States.