

Comments included in e-mail exchanges regarding CS in schools:

From the Prepare Committee Meeting: Questions Concerning HS CS Curriculum

* How would you structure a high school curricula to give a running start at a 4 year degree in CS?

* What would you do to seriously motivate a student to consider a 4 year CS degree?

* What would you do to elevate the general level of CS literacy?

* How would you systematize any and all of the above to make this extensible and adoptable?

From Walt Mayberry: So, in summary, an alternative set of questions might be:

* How do you structure a broad-based program that introduced students to problem solving, algorithms and general CS principals that will be valuable no matter what path they follow in life, and might lead more of them to careers in engineering and CS?

* What is an appropriate introductory course that will attract a large number of students into applying computer science principles? (And how do you feed this from middle school?)

* What are appropriate follow-on courses that might attract a critical mass of high interest students? (Do you just send them to the local community college?)

From Don Kirkwood: As to the "What might an alternative "broad-based program" look like? ", I get concerned that, in many districts with unknowledgeable administrators, such an idea will be watered down into a computer literacy course - a sample of applications: word, data base, spreadsheet, web design, a whiff of programming which would with a much likelihood bore a serious student as to convince her/him that tech is the way to go. There may be potential that would work, but I agree with Walt when he states, "I don't know the answer" to the formula for a broad-based program.

I don't have any issue with asking Walt's alternate set of questions along with the originals - they might produce some great ideas; I personally don't think this approach will lead to our desired effect of getting more students involved with eng/cs courses as much as the first set.

Notes from Jo: An additional meeting of Bruce Schafer, Dick Knight, and Don Kirkwood took place on Monday, July 16, 2007 to address this topic. I do not yet have a summary.