

Bring IT On! a 'jump start' for K-12 outreach programs in computer literacy

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A select group of minority college students from around the nation are convening next month on the IU Bloomington campus to learn ways of encouraging younger students in their communities to pursue computing careers.

Bring IT On!, sponsored by the IU School of Informatics, will bring together computer science students from historically black colleges and universities for an Oct. 20-22 workshop. The event encourages participants to develop K-12 outreach programs for their institutions while exploring research opportunities in computing for themselves.

One such program created by the Women in Computing at IU—known as WIC@IU—is Just Be, which strives to educate youngsters about the true nature of computing and its educational and career opportunities. It also helps to dispel common stereotypes about those working in computing fields.

Conferees from Lemoyne-Owen, Spelman and Lane colleges and from Lincoln and J.C. Smith universities are expected. Also planning to attend are representatives from Wilberforce, Central State, Claflin, Howard and Jackson State universities.

"Participants will get a jump start on establishing a program that meets the needs in their community," said Kay Connelly, assistant professor, who is co-chairing the event with Samantha Foley, a computer science graduate student. "Just Be presenters will be on hand to provide guidance and share their experiences about how to develop, fund, promote and sustain a robust program."

<http://www.cs.indiana.edu/bringiton/>

<http://www.cs.indiana.edu/cgi-pub/wic/outreach/index.php>

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