Title of the PI Forum
Disseminating Innovations in Teaching Introductory Programming

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Leaders
Peter DePasquale, Computer Science, The College of New Jersey
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Focus Area

The PI forum will focus on **disseminating** innovative approaches to teaching
introductory computer **programming** courses. It will examine how PIs can pool
together dissemination efforts so that they can reach, recruit and retain a larger group of
adopters and adapters.

Ultimate Goal

The ultimate goal of the PI forum is to improve introductory programming courses – their
content, pedagogy, appeal, and execution at both high-school and undergraduate levels.
To this end, the work of the PI forum will be designed to dovetail with the dissemination
efforts of individual PIs, so that individual efforts can be scaled and synergies can be
realized from collaboration. This is intended to broaden and diversify the appeal and
impact of the projects of individual PIs.

Expected Outcomes

Joint Immersive Workshops: One of the most effective modes of dissemination is
day(s)-long immersive workshop. PIs will pool their organizational resources to hold
immersive joint workshops, so that they can reach a wider audience, including
participants whose primary draw to the workshop may be one of the other approaches
presented at the workshop. Participants can save time and effort by attending a one-stop
immersive workshop where they are exposed to a variety of tools and interventions, all
for improving introductory programming courses. The logistics of joint immersive
workshops will be worked out in the PI forum. It is anticipated that each of the leaders
will host one joint workshop in their geographical region, in which the other leaders/PIs
will participate.

Cross-publicity: Mechanisms by which each PI can cross-publicize the work of other PIs
will be discussed.

A **best-practices manual** is expected to result from the discussions at the PI forum.

Meeting Schedule with Topics

The PI forum will meet on the following days and times (all Eastern times) – the listed topics are tentative:
- Wednesday, June 5th, 12:00 - 2:00 PM: Profile of workshop participants, constraints of interventions (in-class/after-class use, add-on/substitute, etc.)
- Thursday, June 13th, 12:00 - 2:00 PM: Venues, hosting and potential dates/times for workshops
- Wednesday, July 17th, 12:00 - 2:00 PM: Publicizing workshops
- Thursday, July 25th, 12:00 - 2:00 PM: Content of workshops, schedule of activities, duration
- Tuesday, August 6th, 12:00 - 2:00 PM: Logistics of running workshops – accommodation, room scheduling, laboratory support/BYOD, participant support, feedback
- Thursday, August 15th, 12:00 - 2:00 PM: Catch-up of remaining issues, action plan for academic year 2013-2014.

Desired Participant Characteristics

The preferred participant is interested in improving introductory programming courses, is developing interventions for use in those courses, and is interested in broader dissemination of said interventions. Issues of reaching, recruiting and retaining adopters will be of significant interest to the participant.

Application Process

Individuals interested in participating in the forum should send an email message to amruth@ramapo.edu with a 1-2 paragraph statement describing their background and experience in developing educational interventions for introductory programming and their interest in dissemination issues.