Panel

CSTA National Standards and their Impact on the Future of K-12 Computer Education

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PANEL SUMMARY or OVERVIEW
The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA), a membership organization that supports and promotes the teaching of computer science and other computing disciplines, recently revised the Model Curriculum for K-12 Computer Science with a focus on establishing National K-12 Computer Science Education Standards. The intent of the document is to provide teachers, schools, districts, states, and governing bodies with a framework upon which to enhance and facilitate computer education in K-12 schools.

The panel will discuss how the revised standards will impact K-12 education and discuss the ways in which educators at all levels (K through College) can help to strengthen computer studies programs in our nation’s schools. The panel will present information about the revised Model, the role of the CSTA, and the reality of K-12 computer education today. Time will be allotted for discussion and sharing of ideas for making K-12 computer education a reality for all students.

This panel will bring three speakers who are active members of the CSTA, two of which have contributed as authors on the Standards project. The format is an educational Panel aimed at informing attendees of the challenges and opportunities that the proposed curriculum framework will provide.

Categories & Subject Descriptors: K.3.2
[Computer and Information Science Education]: Computer Science Education – Curriculum.


Keywords: Curriculum, K-12 Education, Standards.

PANELISTS POSITIONS
Anita Verno, Bergen Community College, Paramus, New Jersey, USA
Anita Verno is an active member of the educational community. She has served on national, state, and local committees and has published numerous papers and journal articles; Anita has co-authored an Introduction to Computers text which is used at the college level nationwide and has provided professional development workshops and outreach programs for K-12 educators. Anita served as Curriculum Chair on the CSTA Advisory Board through 2009 and is currently a member of the CSTA Advisory Council. Anita currently serves as a member of the Standards Writing Task Force that created the new standards document.

Brian Fuschetto, Lyndhurst High School, Lyndhurst, New Jersey, USA
Brian Fuschetto has taught in the New Jersey Public Schools as a Business and Technology instructor for over 10 years. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Business Education and a Masters in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Brian is a national award winning instructor having received Who’s Who in America’s Teachers distinction 5 times, recipient of the American Medal of Honor in Education, Outstanding Professional award in the field of Business Education, just to name a few. Currently, Brian teaches at Lyndhurst High School and has joined the ranks at Bergen Community College as an Adjunct Professor in the Information Technology department. Brian also currently serves as President of the Northern New Jersey Chapter of CSTA, and is a member the Standards Writing Task Force that created the new standards document.

Frances P. Trees, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA
Fran Trees has taught computer science at both the high school and university levels. She has served on the AP Computer Science Development Committee, and on the AP Computer Science Principals Advisory Council. Fran has conducted numerous workshops for high school and university professors on incorporating pedagogical tools into the computer science curriculum. As CSTA Chapter Liaison she works with computer science educators around the country in promoting and improving K-12 computer science education. She is presently the Director of Undergraduate Introductory Education in the Computer Science Department at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.