Subject: Message #43: Computer Science Professional Development
Date: May 5, 2016
To: adecurriculum@lists.state.ar.us
From: Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction Unit

Dear Arkansas Curriculum Leaders:

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) announces the 2016 Computer Science Professional Development grant awards provided to Arkansas STEM Centers, Arkansas Educational Service Cooperatives, Arkansas public universities, Arkansas public community colleges, and other public institutions approved by ADE. (The original request for grant proposals can be read in Commissioner's Memo COM-16-048, available at http://adecm.arkansas.gov/ViewApprovedMemo.aspx?Id=1792.)

These grants were awarded to provide free professional development to Arkansas educators beginning in the spring or summer of 2016. Governor Asa Hutchinson's $5 million Computer Science Initiative Grant is providing the $769,732.48 funding for these professional development programs. Some programs are offering stipends in amounts up to $1,750.00 for program completion.

The professional development programs were evaluated and selected based on the proposal's focus on preparing educators:

* to integrate the embedded K-8 Computer Science Standards within multiple content areas and provide guidance in how to integrate the embedded K-8 Computer Science Standards within multiple content areas to other K-8 teachers within their school, or
* to instruct students in the 7th/8th grade coding block, integrate the embedded K-8 Computer Science Standards within multiple content areas, and provide guidance in how to instruct students in the 7th/8th grade coding block and integrate the embedded K-8 Computer Science Standards within multiple content areas to other K-8 teachers within their school, or
* to prepare existing Arkansas educators to pass the assessment necessary to gain an ADE Computer Science Endorsement on an Arkansas Educator's License (or individuals in non-traditional licensure programs to pass the assessment necessary to obtain an ADE Provisional License in computer science) and teach high school level computer science content.

PD program information, registration information, and contact information can be found at: http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/resource-materials-for-lesson-plans/computer-science/2016-professional-development-grants (Short Link: http://goo.gl/Ti8USR)

Please pass this information along to anyone who may be interested.

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.

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