

Monday, Dec 05, 2016

SECS participating in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's 'Computer Science for All' initiative

With an eye on President Obama's call to action in the computer sciences and in full support of the White House **Computer Science Education Week (December 5-11)**, Laura Dinsmoor, a special instructor and associate director of outreach in Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science, has committed to developing a new, direct-to-parents online workshop.

The goal of the workshop is to start at the grassroots level to increase the number of students overall, and female students in particular, enrolling in computer science degree paths in colleges around the state.

"When I was in computer engineering at Oakland University in the 1970s, there were very few women in the program," Dinsmoor explained. "When I came back to teach in 2000, nothing much had changed. I want to be a catalyst for change and increase student interest so that more women consider a degree and career in this exciting field."

Already partnering with area middle school and high school teachers to spread the word about computer science, Dinsmoor and colleagues will expand their programming and begin offering online workshops for parents in the Metro Detroit area in early 2017.



Laura Dinsmoor

"As educators, we want to reach parents of middle school and high school students and get them thinking about and talking to

their children about computer science," Dinsmoor said. "We know there are lucrative jobs in this field and the number of jobs is currently outpacing our ability to graduate talented young people to fill them."

Dinsmoor is also putting a plan into place so that once developed, her workshop will be expanded to be available to teachers and parents around the state and the country.

Read more about Oakland University's commitment, and that of other organizations, to the national movement of **Computer Science for All** by viewing the **White House Fact Sheet** released today.



As part of the White House initiative, Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science will provide online parent workshops in CS education in the Metro Detroit area in 2017.

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