UCLA CS PROJECT

MEDIA RELEASE

UCLA Center X's Exploring Computer Science curriculum granted "A-G" program status from UC Office of the President

Exploring Computer Science, an equity-focused computer science program, broadens participation in computing throughout California's high schools

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Westwood, CA – Exploring Computer Science has been awarded program status with the University of California Office of the President, making the high school course easy to adopt as a "G" elective by high schools throughout California. Program Status allows approved educational programs to be added to a school's "a-g" course list without schools having to prepare a full course submission to UC for review. UC encourages schools, districts, and school networks to add program courses, such as ECS, because the schools will receive curriculum resources and related support for teachers.

Exploring Computer Science is a year-long introductory computer science curriculum developed in 2008 in partnership with UCLA, the University of Oregon, and the Los Angeles Unified School District. With funding provided by the National Science Foundation, ECS is now a national program offered in the seven largest school districts in the nation. ECS is committed to democratizing computer science knowledge by increasing learning opportunities for all students and especially those underrepresented in computing: girls, Latino/a, African American students, and English Learners.

ECS provides an introduction to the fundamental computational thinking, problem-solving and critical thinking skills that are at the heart of computer science. ECS is both a college prep course that counts toward a "G" elective and also an approved Career Technical Education course that is part of the Information Communication Technology career pathway.

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Assignments and instruction are inquiry and equity based and designed to be socially relevant, bringing computer science alive through real world applications and meaningful connections. Topics such as human computer interaction, problem solving, web design, programming, computing and data analysis, and robotics are included in this foundational course.

A key component of ECS is the professional development opportunities it provides teachers to help build their capacity to bring computer science to the classroom. Years of ECS research informs teacher pedagogy that engages diverse students in project-based learning, collaboration and inquiry. To prepare for this course, teachers commit to an intensive 2-year professional development program focused on content, inquiry, and equity.

An updated version of the ECS curriculum is now available for download from the ECS website. For more information about the new ECS v6 curriculum, or to schedule a professional development program, please visit www.exploringcs.org or contact Gail Chapman at chapgail@gmail.com.

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UCLA Computer Science Project is a part of Center X and the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.
For more information, please visit: www.centerx.gseis.ucla.edu/computer-science-project

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