**Arkansas Computer
Science and
Computing Educator
Academy
2021-2023**

Request for Proposal Packet

Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy

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As part of the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Initiative founded under Governor Asa Hutchinson, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) seeks an Arkansas public university to form a partnership with the ADE Office of Computer Science to provide postsecondary graduate credit for Arkansas residents completing a Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy. This "request for proposal" packet seeks to assist in the identification of that Arkansas public university.

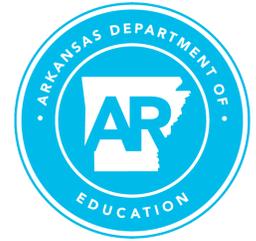All inquiries regarding this packet should be addressed to:

Anthony Owen
State Director of Computer Science and Computing Education
Arkansas Department of Education
4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72022
anthony.owen@arkansas.gov

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Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy 2021-2023

1. Program Description and Guidelines

A. Purpose

The ADE Office of Computer Science is establishing a Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy (CSCEA) that will begin in the summer of 2021. The CSCEA will provide another option for Arkansas residents to:
- Learn basic computer science which provides a starting point for new teachers to be successful,
- Receive preparation for passing the Computer Science Content Knowledge Praxis exam,
- Gain approval to teach high school computer science courses,
- Earn postsecondary credits for academy completion, and
- Expand skills in specialized areas aligned to state adopted programs of study.

B. Training Components

The CSCEA will consist of each candidate completing 90 hours of computer science and computing (CSC) training that is aligned to that candidate's needs and desires.

The primary training is 60 hours of content that is designed, and required, for all candidates who have not yet passed the Computer Science Content Knowledge Praxis exam. This training, provided by the ADE Office of Computer Science, will, at minimum, consist of:
- An overview of CSC Initiative including importance of CSC,
- An examination of state provided resources and requirements both regulatory and legislative,
- A broad examination of the scope and sequencing of the content within the K-8 computer science standards,
- A broad examination of the approved high school pathways and Division of Career and Technical Education (DCTE) approved programs of study found at: https://bit.ly/CSforARPoS2021,
- Information on active steps to broaden upper level participation in computing and computer science amongst underserved populations, especially female students,
- Computer science and computing concepts and instructional strategies for standards within the ADE Computer Science and Computing year one standards found at: https://bit.ly/ARCSCourses,
- Additional concepts that are found on the computer science Praxis, but not part of the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing year one standards, and
- Strategies and resources for passing the Computer Science Content Knowledge Praxis Exam.

The secondary training options, which the candidate may select based on their needs and/or interests, are 30 hours each. These secondary training options will be provided by the ADE Office of Computer Science or partners/trainers selected by the ADE Office of Computer Science.

Secondary training options for the summer of 2021 will include:
- Cybersecurity - Year 2 and Year 3 Standards Alignment
- Game Development and Design - Year 2 and Year 3 Standards Alignment
- Mobile Application Development - Year 2 and Year 3 Standards Alignment
- Networking - Year 2 and Year 3 Standards Alignment
- Programming - Year 2 and Year 3 Standards Alignment
- Robotics - Year 2 and Year 3 Standards Alignment

Additional secondary training options under consideration for launch in the summer of 2021 or summer of 2022 (as available) include:
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning - Year 2 and Year 3 Standards Alignment
- Computer Engineering - Year 2 and Year 3 Standards Alignment
- Data Science - Year 2 and Year 3 Standards Alignment
- Select advanced programming training provided by the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts

A candidate who enters the program that has already passed the Computer Science Content Knowledge Praxis exam, will be allowed to take three different secondary training options to meet the 90-hour requirement.

C.   Candidate Selection

The CSCEA is restricted to Arkansas residents who are either employed by an Arkansas public school district or intend to teach within an Arkansas Public School District and have a letter of support from a Superintendent of an Arkansas Public School District. Up to 100 candidates will be accepted for each of the summer 2021, summer 2022, and summer 2023 cohorts (up to 300 total candidates). The candidate selection criteria and process will be developed and conducted by the ADE Office of Computer Science.
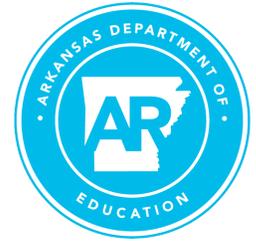
D.   CSCEA Participant Certification, Credit, and/or Grades

Upon completion of the 90-hour program, if other required criteria is met, the ADE may issue the participant one of the following:
- 5016 Computer Science Approval Code for individuals who already hold an Arkansas Educator's License,
- 5014 Computer Science Technical Permit for individuals who have at least 4 years of work experience in a computer science and computing (or related) field, or
- 5013 Computer Science Technical Permit for Classified Staff who have at least 1 year of direct student involvement work experience in a public school district.

Candidates who successfully complete the 90-hour program may also earn up to 6 graduate level credits in computer science and/or education awarded by the selected Arkansas public university partner. The expense for these credits will be remunerated by the Arkansas Department of Education or a selected partner. It is expected that the tuition and fees will be greatly reduced due to the instruction being developed and provided by the ADE Office of Computer Science and that the instruction, due to COVID guidelines at the time of the CSCEA, may or may not take place on the public university partner's physical campus. If the Arkansas public university partner has accreditation-based requirements for training instructors, those requirements, in addition to expenses to meet those requirements, should be clearly outlined within the response to this RFP.

2. Proposals should outline the following:

A.   Determine whether your institution meets the criteria for selection.
- a. Minimum Criteria
  - i.   Can award 6 state-recognized graduate level credits to participants completing this training,
  - ii.   Can provide a physical space for up to 110 individuals to meet (subject to COVID guidelines in place at the time of the CSCEA) Monday through Friday (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) of the weeks of June 14-18, 2021 and June 21-25, 2021 (this space should be able to be secured overnight),
  - iii. Can provide access to this space on Sunday, June 13, 2021, and Sunday, June 20, 2021, for ADE Office of Computer Science members to prepare the space for the next week's training,
  - iv. Can provide reasonable access to and set up of tables, chairs, and other necessary equipment for the training,
  - v.   Can provide access to a reliable physical high-speed network connection for ADE Office of Computer Science digital conferencing and streaming equipment,
  - vi. Can provide access to reliable wireless internet connectivity (WiFi) for up to 110 individuals,
  - vii. Can provide access to parking for up to 110 individuals,
  - viii. Can provide access to in-room snacks (at no charge to the participant), including beverages, throughout each day for up to 110 individuals,
  - ix. Can provide access to in-room or on-campus breakfast and lunch for each day (Monday-Friday) of the CSCEA,
    (final number of on-site participants will be established by June 1, 2021)
- b. Optional Bonus Criteria - if provided this may increase the likelihood for selection
  - i.   Can provide and run digital equipment (cameras, computers, high-speed internet, audio and visual connection for a presenter's laptop that feeds into the system, projectors to display both the presenter's laptop and Zoom participants) that will allow individuals in

the physical space to interact effectively with digital participants joining via Zoom. (ADE will establish the Zoom rooms to be used)
  ii. Residential facilities for up to 110 individuals for Sunday through Thursday night of both weeks (residential WiFi access included)
  iii. Access to local and appropriate evening entertainment activities

B.   Complete the application, detailing the availability of each element of the criteria for selection outlined above.

C.   Provide a proposed postsecondary partner budget:
  a. Include a per participant price to award state-recognized 6 graduate hours
  b. Indicate if this cost is consistent, regardless of the number of participants
  c. Include all costs to meet other elements of criteria for selection (including a per participant cost where applicable)
  d. Indicate if there will be and clearly outline all instructor accreditation requirements and any associated costs

D.   Email all of the information above, with a letter from the public university partner's chief officer or president, by April 15, 2021, to anthony.owen@arkansas.gov and CSforAR@arkansas.gov.

3. Review and Approval Process

  A. The CSCEA public university partner selection committee will be appointed by the ADE Director of Computer Science upon approval of the Deputy Commissioner of Education.
  B. The committee will review proposals and may interview applicant representatives.
  C. The committee may recommend one or more public university partners to the Secretary of Education for consideration and/or approval.

4. Application Components

A detailed description of each program component defined below is required for a complete application.

A.   Name, title, address, phone number, and email address of a point of contact for the public university partner,

B.   Full explanation of reasoning and plan to meet any additional instructor accreditation requirements,

C.   Explain proposed processes to be used by the public university partner to register, and award postsecondary credit to the participants,

D.   Detail the full costs, expenses, and fees to award each participant the postsecondary credit,

E.   Detail the full costs, of all other budgeted criteria the public university partner can/will provide, and

F.   Provide other information that the public university partner wants considered during the review process.

5. Public University Partner Responsibilities

A.   Appoint a single point of contact for the CSCEA who will coordinate public university partner efforts with the Arkansas Department of Education Office of Computer Science.

B.   Process and submit, on time, all reports, relevant to the CSCEA, that are requested by the Arkansas Department of Education Office of Computer Science.

6. Proposed Budget

The proposed budget should be submitted on the public university partner's letterhead, may be digital, and encompass all budgetary components required above.