

Proposal for Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy  
2021-2023

Submitted by:  
Arkansas Tech University

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## **Introduction:**

Arkansas Tech University is submitting a proposal to the Arkansas Department of Education to host the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Educator Academy (CSCEA) for summers 2021-2023.

The Arkansas Department of Education recognized Arkansas Tech University in 2018 for having a student graduate within the first cohort receiving a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Education. Arkansas Tech is the third largest university in Arkansas and ranked number one for upward mobility. In addition, ATU enrolls more recent Arkansas high school graduates into STEM field degrees than any other university in the state over the past five years.

Arkansas Tech University will award 6 graduate credit hours to all participants who successfully complete all requirements for the CSCEA. The University has sufficient classroom space on campus to accommodate 100 participants and 10 instructors/support staff. The Young Ballroom currently has a capacity of 90 due to COVID restrictions. Therefore, if there are less than the 100 expected educators, the Young Ballroom will be sufficient to handle all participants. In the instance all 100 educators attend in person, participants can be split into two groups and utilize the Young Ballroom and a large classroom located in Rothwell Hall. There have been 14 classrooms within Rothwell Hall temporarily reserved to provide adequate space for the second choice sessions. All available classroom space within Rothwell Hall or the Young Ballroom will be equipped with chairs, tables, easy access to power outlets, and full access to sufficient Wi-Fi connectivity. The facilities will have the capability to accommodate participants participating through Zoom. Classrooms within Rothwell are equipped with Lecture Capture cameras and audio. If the Young Ballroom is utilized, the Office of Information Systems can supply webcams and audio to support the Zoom participants. Parking will be located at Tucker Coliseum, within a very short walk to either facility. Sarah Burnett will provide classroom access on Sunday, June 13 and June 20 for the CSCEA instructors. Public Safety will provide participants with a temporary hangtag free of charge for parking access.

The Office of Information Systems (OIS) is integral to its computer services support, which will be readily available to the project. OIS maintains a sound technical structure, which nurtures the development of research and scholarly activities across its areas of operation to include networking systems, administrative systems, and support services. ATU is connected to the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network with redundant 10Gbit links. The Campus Support Center, which reports to OIS, operates 24/7 so that project senior personnel can receive telephone and/or remote assistance from a live ATU Support Representative.

Breakfast and lunch will be served in the Chambers Cafeteria, while snacks will be provided within the classroom. The cafeteria can accommodate any dietary needs identified by participants. Chartwells will cater and deliver snacks to all classrooms utilized for the CSCEA.

Housing for participants is included in ATU's Commons apartments. The Commons is available as a 4-bedroom apartment unit with private bedrooms and shared bathrooms, full size bed, high-speed internet access, and a shared living space. There are 66 4-bedroom apartments available to participants. This housing option will be provided as a 60% discounted rate for the CSCEA participants.

### **Project Coordinator:**

Sarah Burnett is the STEM Project Coordinator within the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). She has previous experience coordinating teacher training sessions with greater than 100 participants and multiple sessions occurring simultaneously through Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and the Arkansas Department of Education math and science professional development unit. Ms. Burnett will be the point of contact for the project with Arkansas Tech University.

Ms. Burnett will be in charge of coordinating participant admission to the graduate college, scheduling classrooms, snacks, meals, housing if required, ensuring graduate credit is awarded, and reporting the grant progress to ADE. Ms. Burnett will be the contact person for ADE instructors throughout the CSCEA and will be onsite to ensure a successful CSCEA experience for all participants and instructors.

### **Instructor Accreditation Requirements:**

Arkansas Tech University will assign two computer science faculty members to the educator academy. All participants will receive credit for INFT 5403 Introduction to Information Technology and Systems for the first part of the CSCEA. Participants will receive credit for INFT 6903 Emerging Trends to account for their secondary choice listed by the Office of Computer Science. The proposed 6 hours of credit are aligned to two of the courses within the Master of Science in Information Technology - Computer-Based Instructional Technology (MS-CBIT). This degree program is housed within the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences within the Department of Computer and Information Science. The two faculty members will be assigned to the portion of the training in which they are the faculty of record for the given credit.

### **Participant Application and Award for Credit Hours:**

All participants will be required to apply for admission to the Arkansas Tech Graduate College. Funds received by the grant will pay for the participants' application fee. Ms. Burnett will receive a list of all accepted participants from the ADE Office of Computer Science and coordinate the admissions process with the graduate recruiter and admissions officer. Ms. Burnett, graduate recruitment, and graduate admissions will ensure all students are admitted to the graduate college and receive the six credit hours for the CSCEA.

**Evening Activities:**

The Russellville and River Valley areas provide many opportunities for visitors to enjoy the outdoors. Russellville has two disc golf courses, a rock wall climbing, an aquatic center, hiking trails, Lake Dardanelle State Park with boat rental availability through the Russellville Marina, and a revived historic downtown setting with many restaurants and shops.

**Additional Information:**

Participants will earn six graduate credit hours towards the MS-CBIT degree. Participants will have the option to continue the program upon completion of the CSCEA. The MS-CBIT degree provides educators a pathway to earn a graduate level degree, and to offer concurrent credit at the high school level. The degree program provides eighteen hours of technical courses required to meet the minimum hours outlined by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to be an instructor of a concurrent course. Participants currently holding a graduate degree may continue as non-degree seeking and complete the eighteen hours of technical courses outlined in the course catalog. The Governor has issued all school districts will have a minimum of one certified Computer Science teacher, and this option further supports the Computer Science Initiative.