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**Title:** Replicating “Exploring Computer Science” (ECS)

**Abstract:** Exploring Computer Science (ECS) is engaging, hands-on high school curriculum and associated professional development that is being implemented at a systemic level in the Los Angeles Unified School District and is now being replicated in Chicago Public Schools and elsewhere. The active partnership between Los Angeles, Chicago, the Chicago CSTA, university faculty and high school teachers and administrators has been critical to success in Chicago.

What is so special about this guided-inquiry curriculum? For those wanting to replicate this in other cities, how can this be done?

**Significance and Relevance of the Topic:** Following the successful lead of Los Angeles, Chicago is attempting to systemically provide a compelling Computer Science high school experience for every student. Unlike many introductory CS courses that are mostly programming, the ECS curriculum paired with the required professional development (PD) equips teachers and school districts for successful guided inquiry experiences across the breadth of CS for every student.

The key to success in Chicago has been establishing an active partnership. Connections to area teachers were initiated through the Chicago CSTA, which with 120 members is perhaps the largest CSTA chapter in the country. This active partnership connects Chicago and Los Angeles (UCLA), Chicago universities (DePaul, UIC, Loyola), high school teachers (Chicago Public Schools, University of Chicago Lab School, suburban schools) and Chicago Public Schools administrators. This model for replication is being explored in other states.

A brief activity coupled with small group discussion will give a very brief taste of ECS.

Over 85 teachers across the country experienced this PD during the summer of 2012. The ECS course is a natural precursor to the proposed new AP CS Principles course.

**Expected Audience:** High School teachers and University faculty currently partnering in implementing ECS, as well as those wanting to replicate this in their own cities. We anticipate a group of 30-40.

**Discussion Leader(s):** Dale Reed (Univ. of IL Chicago); Don Yanek (Chicago Public Schools); Gail Chapman (UCLA)

**Expertise of Discussion Leader(s):** Dale Reed has taught CS for 22 years and is co-PI on the NSF grant replicating ECS in Chicago; Don Yanek is Chicago CSTA President, is a three-year CPS teacher of ECS and is co-PI on the NSF grant; Gail Chapman is co-author of the ECS curriculum and national PD leader;

**Special Requirements:** None, although round tables would facilitate small group discussion