

## ***Where Have All The Tech Savvy Students Gone? Developing Computer Science Transfer Programs***

### **Abstract:**

With national and local statistics showing a dramatic decrease in undergraduate and graduate enrollment in Computer Science along with the new admission restrictions at our state universities, the University of South Florida has partnered with Hillsborough Community College to establish a series of coordinated programs designed to broaden the participation of underrepresented minority students in Computer Science. These programs, referred to as *CSTEP: Computer Science TransfEr Programs*, are used to recruit, retain, and prepare community college students to continue on their path toward a four-year university. This session will include an overview of our programs, a discussion on why major-specific transfer programs are necessary, how to fund such programs, summarize the implementation, share struggles and problems encountered, and present the initial results.

### **CSTEP Contact:**

*Michelle Kobus, M.Ed*  
Personal Transition Services Specialist  
Hillsborough Community College  
mkobus@hccfl.edu  
813-253-7922

### **Additional Presenters:**

*Cesar D. Guerrero*  
Ph.D Candidate  
University of South Florida  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
guerrerc@cse.usf.edu  
813-362-6067

*Jose J. Galvis, M.S.*  
Computer Science Instructor  
Hillsborough Community College  
Jgalvis3@hccfl.edu  
813-253-7832

All presentation materials as well as additional information regarding CSTEP can be found at:  
[www.csee.usf.edu/BPC/](http://www.csee.usf.edu/BPC/)

## ***Where Have All The Tech Savvy Students Gone? Developing Computer Science Transfer Programs***

### **CSTEP Description:**

The primary goal of CSTEP is to implement a model to systematically increase the enrollment, retention, and graduation rate of minority students in Computer Science. CSTEP is meant to transition students seamlessly from HCC to USF. Challenging research projects and academic courses have been implemented to provide HCC students with state-of-the-art knowledge in a wide variety of areas in Computer Science. CSTEP offers summer program scholarships at USF in which students enroll in class(es) and are exposed to research, personalized advising services, faculty mentors at USF and HCC, paid research experiences for undergraduates (REU) at USF, a peer-tutoring program, and professional development opportunities. All of these programs are used to recruit, retain, and prepare HCC students to continue on their path toward a 4-year university.

This past July, CSTEP wrapped up its first 16-week Summer Program at USF. Jeffrey Batista, a current CSTEP student, stated, "I'm excited about this program! Having supervision and guidance on what our next steps should be in college is great. College is a much bigger world than most students are accustomed to. It's a plus to have the support of the other students in the program and an advisor helping us along the way."

### **CSTEP Flowchart:**

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Enroll at HCC	Apply to USF Computer Science and Engineering	Start junior year at USF's Computer Science and Eng. Dept	Start senior year at USF's Computer Science and Eng. Dept
Apply to CSTEP			
Meet with Personal Transition Services Specialist <b>Develop and review Personalized Transition Plans</b> Take planned courses Use advising and tutoring services			
<b>Summer Program I</b>	<b>Summer Program II</b>	REU Summer Programs	

All presentation materials as well as additional information regarding CSTEP can be found at:  
[www.csee.usf.edu/BPC/](http://www.csee.usf.edu/BPC/)