

COMMUNITY COLLEGE CORNER

Elizabeth K. Hawthorne

Collaborating with CSTA for

Computer Science Education Week

THE ACM COMMITTEE FOR COMPUTING EDUCATION IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

(CCECC) is pleased to collaborate with the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) for participation in the third annual Computer Science Education (CS Ed) Week. This year CS Ed Week is December 4 -10 in honor of the late visionary computer scientist, Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, whose birthday falls on December 9.

Many of America's community colleges are partnering with their local businesses and industries to prepare students for new Information Technology-related careers. Straddling between what is considered *Information Technology-infused* and the more traditional *Information Technology* programs per se, these emergent associate degrees highlight the increasing opportunities available to students for pairing their varied non-IT career interests with core IT content. As a result, colleges are attracting a diverse range of students into associate-degree programs not only tailored to today's career opportunities but also built on strong foundational computing skills well suited for ongoing professional growth and career development.

Together the CCECC and CSTA have created an eye-catching poster showcasing forward-looking occupations in the

computing field along with their related associate-degree programs. This attractive poster highlights representative samplings of possible associate-degree pathways currently offered in a variety of America's colleges. Example pathway instantiations are described below.



In the combined healthcare/IT career field of healthcare informatics, *medical informatics* associate-degree programs prepare students for jobs such as electronic medical records specialist, medical records security officer, medical tele-monitoring professional, health records administrator and health information technician. These programs combine computing content, such as database and computer programming, database concepts and administration, with health content such as medical terminology, interpersonal skills for working in the medical environment,

pharmacology, diagnostic and procedural coding, medical economics, and anatomy & physiology. Particulars regarding the Medical Informatics associate-degree program at Bergen Community College (New Jersey) are available from www2.bergen.edu/ECatalog/programview.asp?program.cbn=127.



In the combined entertainment/IT career field of *mobile application development*, associate-degree programs in mobile app and entertainment development prepare students for jobs such as iPad programmer and mobile application developer. These programs combine computing content such as procedural and objective programming, web applications, app development, software design, data management, and iPad app development, with entertainment content such as animation, and entertainment design. Details about the Mobile App and Entertainment Development associate degree offered from Northwest Kansas Technical College (Kansas) are available from www.nwktc.edu/maed/.



In the combined environment/IT career field of computer mapping, *geographic information systems* (GIS) associate-degree programs prepare students for jobs such as GIS technician, cartographic technician, photogrammetrist, computer mapping specialist, weather forecaster,

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and marketing analyst. These programs combine computing content such as computer science, computer programming, database applications, and computer systems, with mapping content such as introduction to GIS, utilizing Google Earth and Google Maps, geo-databases, cartography, GIS business applications, and utilizing GIS for human-based problem solving. Specifics regarding the GIS associate-degree program from American Sentinel University (Colorado) are available from www.americansentinel.edu/information-technology/a-s-geographic-information-systems.

In the combined criminal justice/IT career field of cyber forensics, associate-degree programs in *data recovery and digital forensics* prepare students for jobs such as computer forensic technician, security technician, data recovery/forensics specialist, and computer security specialist. These programs combine computing



content such as network security, UNIX/Linux, and Visual Basic programming with criminal justice content such as data recovery, digital forensics, electronic discovery, search and seizure. Information about the Data Recovery/Forensics Specialist associate-degree offered by Highline Community College (Washington) is available from <http://cg.highline.edu/data.recovery.php>.

This joint CCECC and CSTA poster was sent to all U.S. and Canadian CSTA members—more than eight thousand

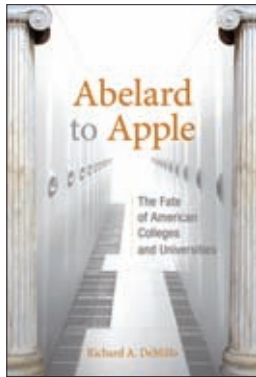
educators. It is also available for download from the CS Ed Week (csedweek.org), CSTA (csta.org) and ACM CCECC (acmccecc.org) websites. The poster will have continued distribution at upcoming CSTA events as well as conference and social media channels by the CCECC. Once again, the ACM CCECC truly appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with CSTA in this year's CS Ed Week and looks forward to working together again on future endeavors. **lr**



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