Announcements

Greetings, and welcome to our October newsletter!

We hope you enjoyed your summer! We understand that the beginning of any school year is a busy and challenging time for educators, and we want to share some important information with you related to ARCS. This newsletter is one way that we keep in touch with all of you and offer timely CS-related resources for educators.

The ARCS team includes faculty members at The Center for Educational Partnerships, many of whom have worked as educators and administrators in Virginia’s public schools. We are dedicated to supporting you and look forward to the learning journeys we are embarking on together. If you would like to find out more about ARCS, please visit https://www.odu.edu/tcep/arcs.

This month, we would like to introduce you to Susan Cale, Director of Educational Partnerships, Lisa Stidham and Alexis Thomas, who will serve as your primary contacts and mentors throughout the ARCS Program. Lisa has over 10 years of experience in K-12 education and is especially excited about integrating CS content with existing curriculum, including social studies and language arts. Alexis has worked as a classroom teacher with over 20 years of experience teaching elementary and middle school students. She served as a science curriculum writer and facilitator integrating CS and STEM activities into the curriculum.

Our topic this month in Data Science is the concept of databases. What do your students think of when they hear “data”? In today’s information-saturated world, making decisions based on data is a skill required in many professions and in our personal lives as well. This issue will share more about this topic and how to weave data science concepts into teaching K-5 learners and preparing them for the future.

If you have any questions about ARCS or CS integration, or have any innovative ideas you would like to share with us, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us via email at TCEP@odu.edu.

Sincerely,

The ARCS Team

Pedagogy Pointers

Data literacy involves the ability to collect, organize, and communicate about data effectively. Teachers can help foster these abilities in elementary school in a variety of ways. See You Cubed, Tech & Learning, and NSTA for the latest lesson plans and activities to help students improve their skills in interpreting and communicating different types of data no matter what topic they are exploring. For example, we love this clever lesson about using data to predict the length of a shadow from the National Science Teaching Association. For specific teaching methods that promote data literacy, see the Edutopia article about how to integrate data throughout your instruction and across subjects. The activities provided in these resources align with CS-K.9, 1.11, 2.11, 3.12, 4.12, and 5.11.

Computer Science in the Commonwealth

VOE Computer Science Standards of Learning

Through the partnership with Virginia Public Media, the Virginia Department of Education is excited to announce two instructional resources. The first is an engaging video series, Learning with Techne, which focuses on using the Virginia Computer Science standards of the 2017 Computer Science Standards of Learning. Second, is the Computer Science Careers in Virginia video series which highlights the impact of computer science within various careers across the Commonwealth of Virginia. These resources can be found on GoOpenVA.

Engaging All Learners

A new school year brings both excitement and challenges as we get to know new students and discover how enhancing our differences can support teaching and learning. Now more than ever, it is important to diversify the classroom—through strategies that will broaden participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics — including computer science, particularly among underrepresented students in STEM. Throughout the year, we will be sharing information, resources, and strategies designed to engage all learners in computer science teaching and learning. This month, we provide an explanation of a theory developed by Dr. Geneva Gay, Professor of Education at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Click here to learn more about the theory that the ARCS project will employ and to read more about Dr. Gay and her work. Interested in language and culture specific to classroom in Virginia? This VOE has developed resources to support Culturally Competent practice of school employees to help educators understand the perspectives and nuances that are often missed by some members of diverse populations in the Commonwealth. Click here for information on this training.

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Old Dominion University
The Center for Educational Partnerships

Have a question or feedback for us? Email TCEP@odu.edu

Website: www.odu.edu/tcep/arcs
Tel: 757-683-5449

The Center for Educational Partnerships at Old Dominion University

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