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Community College Corner (3C)

Recent Activities of the ACM Two-Year College Education Committee



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First, let me offer sincere thanks to all SIGCSE members who supported SIG3C, the Special Interest Group for Computing at Community Colleges. Due to financial problems, SIG3C was decommissioned in April 1999.

On a positive note, ACM still has a very active group that is addressing educational issues at two-year colleges worldwide. This group is called the Two-Year College Education Committee, a standing committee of the Education Board of ACM. The current membership consists of myself as Chair, Richard Austing (University of Maryland, University College), Robert Campbell (Rock Valley College, Rockford, Illinois), and C. Fay Cover (Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado Springs). Past committee members include Helene Chlopan, Joyce Currie Little, and John Impagliazzo.

Throughout the 1990s, the Committee has been very active. Besides composing curricular guidelines, the Committee has also conducted two NSF UFE grants. The rest of this inaugural 3C column will highlight some of the Committee accomplishments.

From 1990-1992, the Committee coordinated the creation of a comprehensive set of computing curricular guidelines for two-year colleges. These guidelines were published as a four-volume set by

ACM Press in 1993. In addition to *Computing Sciences*, *Computing for Information Processing*, *Computing and Engineering Technology*, and *Computing for Other Disciplines*, the curricular areas included a newly-emerging area that the Committee called *Computer Support Services* (CSS). The goals of the CSS report were defined to prepare graduates at the associate-degree level for work in three types of activities: networking setup and support, hardware support, and applications support. Since 1993, this field has changed so dramatically that the original guidelines are very dated indeed. The Committee has very recently updated and expanded the CSS guidelines.

In June 1994, the Committee conducted a very successful five-day NSF Faculty-Enhancement workshop at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The workshop was designed to enhance computing faculty at two-year colleges that serve Native Americans.

During May through July 1997, the Committee conducted a series of three-day NSF Faculty Enhancement workshops at four different locations nationwide. Each workshop dealt with *Instructional Computing: Current Issues and Solutions*. All four workshops were oversubscribed and well received by the participants.

In 1998 the Committee received funding from the ACM Education and SIG Boards to update the CSS guidelines. To this end, the Committee

formed a Task Force of fourteen computing professionals — primarily faculty at two-year colleges worldwide and industry professionals have reviewed extensively the draft guidelines. The current title is: *Guidelines for Associate-Degree Programs to Support Computing in a Networked Environment*. Copies can be obtained through the Committee web site at <www.acm.org/education/two-year-college>.

The Committee, through Pikes Peak Community College, was recently awarded an NSF Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant. This project will develop, test, and validate a national model for the adaptation and implementation of an advanced technology curriculum by using the current technologies of satellite teleconferencing and varied Internet resources. The primary goal of the project is to provide guidance to two-year colleges in developing one-year certificate and two-year degree programs designed to prepare graduates for computing in a networked environment. More information on this project can be obtained from the Committee web site.

The two-year college faculty members within SIGCSE are encouraged to contact a committee member, visit the web site, and participate in the SIGCSE Symposium sessions coordinated by the Committee. Thank you.