Enrolling, Engaging and Retaining CS Students @

SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE
One of the Seattle Colleges

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A snapshot...

SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE
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- 60% of students belong to underrepresented groups
- 50% of students are first generation students
- Before 2013, 2 CS class sections per quarter
- No fulltime CS instructor

…then there were some changes…

- Java → Python for CSC 110
- In-Class-Exercise (ICEs)
- Women-in-STEM
- #HourofCode
- C++ Study Group
- CS Tutors
- Grace Hopper Conference Scholarships
- College Visits

…Current state

- More CS class sections – 5 sections offered this quarter

- ~30% women in CS Classes

- A thriving Women-in-STEM movement

- More participation of students in #HourofCode

- 20+ Students to WiSE Conference at UW

- CS Student Engagement activities funded by Google grant

- Long-term plans for taking students to GHC

WINSTEM
the start…

- First figure out what students need
- Get the students to signup
  - Members
  - Officers
  - Committee members
- Constitution, Bylaws
- College Contacts
  - Club Center
  - Faculty
  - Administration

Women in STEM
@ SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

WINSTEM
   the follow through...

Women in STEM
@ SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

▶ Guest Lectures

▶ Workshops

▶ Fieldtrips

▶ Networking

▶ Conferences

▶ STEM Fair

▶ #HourofCode

#HourofCode
the start…

▶ Origin: from Code.org (blocks; drag & drop)

▶ #HourofCode at South Seattle College

  ▶ Spring 2014 - First Attempt

  ▶ Used Code.org's Hour of Code program

  ▶ Limited potential / real-world applications

▶ Summer 2014 - Take Two

  ▶ Theme: Code Wizards Unite!

  ▶ Self-driven curriculum

  ▶ Talks on project planning, online education resources

  ▶ Attendance was low and un-even

  ▶ Participants felt "lost" - needed more structure

#HourofCode
the next phase...

▶ Fall 2014 – Third time's the charm

▶ Focused Curriculum: Open Source Group Project

    ▶ Launch Planned for End of Spring 2015

▶ Focus on open source web dev & tools

▶ More committed participants (~18)

▶ Challenges:

    ▶ Finding facilities to hold weekly sessions

    ▶ Tech challenges

        ▶ Do all participants have their own laptops?

    ▶ How to bring new participants up to speed?

    ▶ Community building