Empowering Women in Computing

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What We Do
- The Douglass-DIMACS Computing Corps (DDCC) is a computing club for women at Rutgers University. We are all about community outreach!
- Our goal is to reach out to middle school students and promote interest in pursuing a technical career through computing knowledge.
- We promote the diversity in participation in computing through mentoring.
- We foster professional and academic connections for the students involved.
- We provide peer mentorship and encouragement to retain existing students.

Who Can Join
- Any female Rutgers student who is interested in technology!
- Application is available at https://douglass.rutgers.edu (Women in STEM)

Our Initiatives

Teaching
- We go to schools and teach middle school students using Scratch, Java, and Finch Robot.
- We also teach them HTML and CSS to build a simple website for themselves.

Filed Trips & Girl Scouts
- Middle school girls come to Rutgers to see resources available for women in computing.
- They get to try tools in our MakerSpace and build Lego Mindstorms as a part of their trip.

HackHers (joint with WiCS)
- It is a 24-hour nonstop hackathon (geared for women) at Rutgers University sponsored by 10 big companies including Microsoft, AT&T, Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs, etc..
- This event helps college women to learn different programming tools by attending workshops in hackathon and submit their programming project for hackathon.

Benefits and Results

Benefits of our member students
- They can work with other Rutgers women who love computing and technology.
- They get chance to develop their leadership and organizing skills.
- They receive travel grants for attending workshops and conferences.
- They get internships with local corporations including Colgate Palmolive, UPS, and Johnson and Johnson. This gives them the experience to pursue computing careers as well as to advise underclassmen members on internship opportunities.

Results
- Our collegiate hackathon (HackHers) had a female attendee rate of 61%.
- In 2015-16 academic year, we had 3 outreach events where total outreach participants was more than 80.

Summary
- Middle school students learn how to program in Java more easily because they learned the Computer Science concepts in Scratch first.
- They also learn how to build a website as they learn different modules of HTML and CSS required for a basic website.
- More women attend hackathons than traditional hackathons as HackHers is geared for women.

Future Goals
- Continue to teach middle school students by extending the opportunities to more schools.
- Prepare all training materials electronically and make available to everyone through our website.
- Introducing more tools like Ozobot in order to attract students and keep them up to date with new technology toys.

http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/DDCC