THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

University of Rhode Island EDA University Center

Pathways to Success in Computer Science

UNIVERSITY

University of Rhode Island

CENTER DIRECTOR

Dr. Lisa DiPippo

CENTER LOCATION

Department of Computer Science and Statistics

CENTER SINCE 2021

CENTER ACTIVITIES

- Student Academic Support
- Professional Development
- Exposure to Local Industry
- Internship opportunities
- Mentorship

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WEBSITE

https://web.uri.edu/cs/pathways-to-success-in-computer-science/

THINK BIG WE DO℠

The University of Rhode Island EDA University Center Pathways to Success in Computer Science (*P2SinCS*) program is designed to help attract and retain students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds to URI's Computer Science majors by providing them with integrated services resources. The Center's mission is to expand the workforce pipeline in Rhode Island to fill the growing number of computer science-related jobs and to close the equity gap for workers of diverse backgrounds in the computer science field.

Closing The Gap

Rhode Island is facing critical shortages of high-tech workers with 4-year degrees in computer science. The shortage is even more severe among non-white/Asian races and ethnicities who make up 16% of the RI population yet make up only 3% of workers in high-tech jobs in the state. Workers from diverse backgrounds are an untapped resource to both address the overall high-tech workforce shortage, and to bring essential diversity that strengthens the workplace.

Supporting Minoritized Students in Computer Science

URI's *P2SinCS* program seeks to substantially increase the number of minoritized students graduating from URI with a computer science degree by creating a positive environment where they feel a sense of belonging and they get the support they need to succeed.

Pathways to Success in Computer Science Features

The P2SinCS program provides support for 10 scholars each year through the following activities:

- Tuition, room, board, and stipend during rising sophomore summer to take a challenging introductory programming course that provides a gateway to many of the other major courses.
- Workshops during the summer session to enhance professional and academic skills. These include: resume building, implicit bias, GitHub, technical writing, problem solving, entrepreneurship.
- Visits to companies in RI and the Boston area where the students are introduced to the many ways their CS skills can be applied after graduation.
- Cohort and team building activities such as hack-a-thons and HackerRank contests.
- Access to partner companies for career fairs, on-campus events, and internships.
- Opportunities for paid teaching assistantships in CS courses, providing mentorship to other minoritized students coming through the program.
- Access to research opportunities and hands-on experiences through capstone projects.