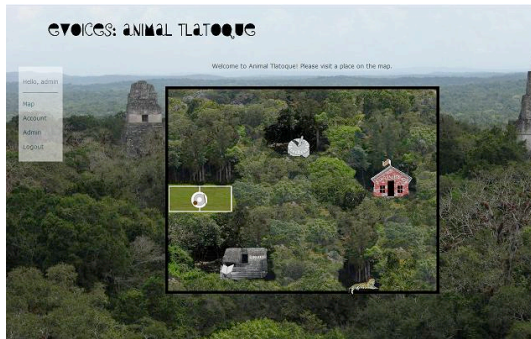




## Animal Tlatoque: Digital Voices for Endangered Species Attracting Target Groups to Computer Science Through Culturally Relevant Activities

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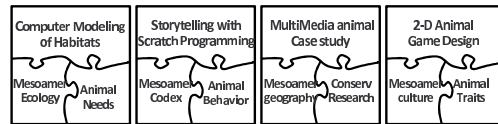


Home page of the eVoices web site featuring a photo from Tikal and Mesoamerican-themed pictures.

**Animal Tlatoque** aims to motivate students from the targeted groups to **excel in school, attend college, and choose computing** as a career. We have chosen two themes, **Mesoamerican culture and conservation of endangered species**, which are particularly attractive to Latina/os and females and their families in Santa Barbara. These themes are intentionally not directly related to computing, for to truly broaden participation in computing, we believe it is necessary to target students that are not already interested in computing.

To achieve this, we will offer a **4-week summer program** called Animal Tlatoque: Digital Voices for Endangered Species, with a **comprehensive follow-up** plan that engages and retains students from middle school through university.

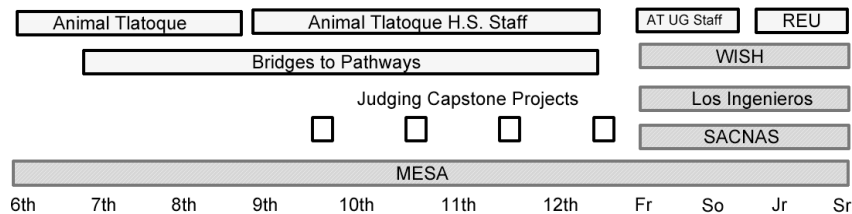
Our summer program is anchored by the **eVoices** web site, a home for student development. The purpose of eVoices is twofold. The first is to show how **computer science** may be applied to a real-world problem to **impact society** in a positive way. The second is to allow students to **develop software artifacts** that can **make a difference** in the world, are **fun** to create, fun to use, and can be **easily shared** with family and friends. The goal, therefore, is to make computer science an attractive field for all participants. Each computing activity contains elements of both Mesoamerican culture and conservation.



Integration of Mesoamerican culture and conservation themes with computing activities

Our program goes beyond motivation, however. We provide **practical information and skill-building** to overcome the practical obstacles Latina/os and females face in pursuing college and/or careers in male-dominated fields, such as differences in communication patterns, confidence, experience, and parental knowledge and therefore guidance.

Our project is expecting funding but has not yet begun. We are developing the website and planning a summer 2010 program.



Opportunities for students from middle school through university

- **Middle School:** Participant in summer program
- **High School:** Select students will be invited to volunteer as helpers during high school as well as judging related senior capstone projects for graduating UCSB senior computer science students.
- **Middle & High School:** Bridges to Pathways will provide academic counseling, tracking, and educational seminars for parents and students
- **Lower Division:** Students will be hired as summer programmers, mentors, and tutors
- **Upper Division:** Students will "graduate" to REU's with research professors, complete capstone projects.