



BPC-DP: A Developmental Community for Recruiting and Retaining Women in CISE Education

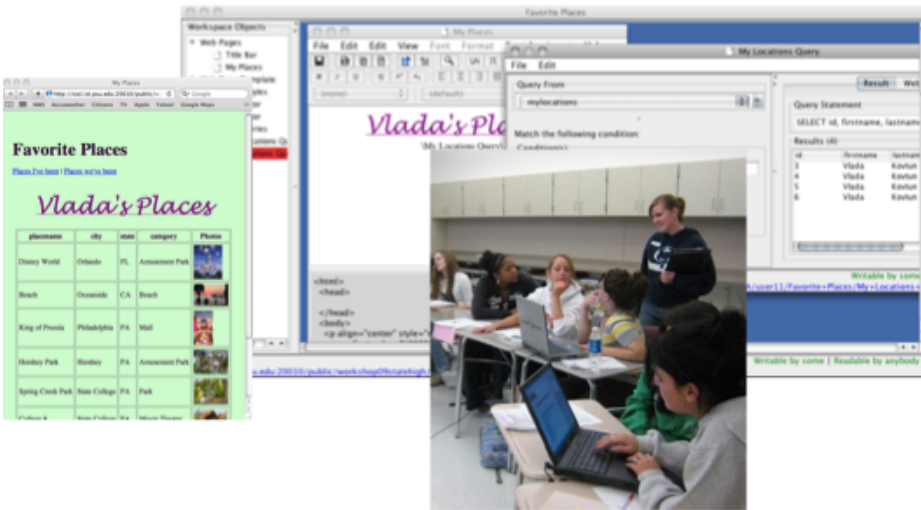
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We are building and studying *wConnect*, a developmental learning community of females who vary in their degree of interest and skill in the computer and information sciences (CIS). The community connects high school students, college students, and professionals, so that they can support one another by sharing interests, experiences, and concerns about careers in CIS.

College girls develop and deliver workshops to high school girls



Public website publicizes project vision and activities and recruits new members

- ✓ Public website documents vision and opportunities
- ✓ Women at all levels join the private online community
- ✓ College women develop and deliver web programming workshops to their former high school mates
- ✓ Alumni participate in virtual panels about IT careers
- ✓ In online community system, members introduce selves, come together for online meetings, write blogs, share photos and other media, etc.

Community members meet online in a custom environment built in Drupal, sharing interests, experiences and advice about their computing-related activities

Accomplishments: We have worked with females at three levels of CIS development - high school, college, professional - to design community-building tools and activities. We have built an online community system using the OSS Drupal platform because it is flexible and accessible enough that core community members can find, build or customize their own online activities. wConnect is a multi-faceted community including approximately 50 members across levels of development, with the majority at the college level. The undergrads have delivered nine workshops on web programming to high school girls. We are currently exploring novel activities like virtual panels for more active engagement by alumni members.

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