



October 15, 2010

Dear Dr. Cuny,

The purpose of this letter is to articulate the College Board's position regarding the proposed *AP Computer Science Principles* course and exam. The College Board is pleased to partner with the National Science Foundation in the investigation of this potential new AP subject. Advancing U.S. students' understanding of the principles and practice of computational science is critical to developing a more competitive workforce for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The goal of the proposed *AP CS Principles* course is to foster a wider appeal for the CS discipline and better prepare STEM majors. The College Board's AP course development process provides the framework in which the new course's curriculum will be designed. Specific deliverables of the project will be: 1) a *CS Principles* curriculum; 2) the design of course pilots in both secondary and post-secondary settings; 3) implementation of the pilots and curriculum evaluations; and 4) a suite of computer-based, prototype assessment items. The College Board is committed to developing the new course within the vision established in 2002 by the National Research Council when they recommended that AP courses be designed to "reflect what we know about how students learn; build students' transferable, conceptual understanding and inquiry skills; and convey the content and unifying concepts of a discipline."

The College Board anticipates converting these pilots into a regularly offered and administered *AP Computer Science Principles* course provided that: a) a sufficient number of colleges and universities agree to recognize the course as a college-level computer science offering and provide qualified students with exemption from introductory coursework and advanced placement into a subsequent computer science course in college; and b) funding sources external to the College Board are secured in order to develop, administer, and score the corresponding AP Exam, and provide the requisite AP teacher professional development support until such time as the *AP CS Principles* course can be financially self-sustaining.

The AP Program looks forward to continued collaboration with you and the National Science Foundation in a shared effort to achieve the project's goals. We are grateful for your leadership of this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Trevor Packer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Trevor Packer  
Vice President, Advanced Placement Program