



Owen Astrachan
D241, LSRC Box 90129
Duke University
Durham, NC 27708-0129
ola@cs.duke.edu

October 29, 2010

Colleague,

The new *CS Principles* course being developed under a unique partnership between the National Science Foundation and the College Board provides us with the opportunity to use a course we teach locally to have an important national impact. I know that many of you teach in a department with more than one introductory course. At Duke we have developed courses for different audiences with different emphases on how we introduce our discipline and its intellectual content and contributions. We are excited to use the CS Principles project to be part of a national effort designed to reach a wide and diverse audience and share with them the same passion we have for our field. Every day our students experience the deep and rich intellectual and practical contributions to society that computing and computer science are making; this course helps provide an academic foundation for understanding these contributions and for emphasizing the intellectual, practical, and creative aspects of our field.

By embracing the CS Principles framework we can be part of a national effort to reach a wider audience than the students at our institution. The CS Principles course has the potential to be an *Advanced Placement* or AP course, reaching students in high schools in all towns, cities, and states. This new AP CS Principles course will augment existing efforts to teach computer science. The CS Principles course is being developed by a large group of researchers and educators to be a wide-reaching alternative to the traditional first programming course that is not being taught at a large scale to high school students.

Please help by being part of this national effort by indicating whether the CS Principles course is poised to have an important national impact. At Duke we plan to give credit for this course. You can help by indicating whether your institution will offer credit and/or placement into a next course by doing well in an AP CS Principles course prior to enrolling at your school, just as is the case with AP courses in other fields. Understanding how credit and/or placement will be awarded at each of our institutions is an important part of ensuring the success of this project as it moves forward. Please participate — check each box that applies.

Thank you,

Owen Astrachan
Professor of the Practice
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Principle Investigator, CS Principles Project