

Contact: Rachel Boon

**PRESENTATION: THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA PARTNERSHIP FOR
COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER PREPARATION**

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: Iowa is one of many states in the US with an active and focused movement to incorporate computer science education into the K-12 curriculum. While students, parents and administrators alike have praised the benefit of teaching computer science as a modern day literacy, it has put school districts in the often difficult position of finding teachers with adequate training in content and instructional methods in computer science. The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Partnership for Computer Science Teacher Preparation is an National Science Foundation funded partnership, between the Department of Computer Science at UNI, Central Rivers Area Education Agency, and 28 school districts around Iowa. The partner groups will pilot test materials that will spread to a statewide network for computer science professional development for both in-service and pre-service teachers.

Presenter: Ben Schafer is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at UNI. He has been working with computer science outreach to Iowa's K-12 teachers and students since 2009 and has served on several state and national K-12 computer science committees. He and Sarah Diesburg were awarded the 2015 NCWIT EngageCSEdu Engagement Excellence Award for their body of work in developing engaging CSI materials for their students.

Sarah Diesburg is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at UNI. Her research interests lie in security and privacy issues and the use of emerging technologies in the classroom. She founded the Women in Computing group at UNI in 2014. She is also the winner of the 2016 Technology Association of Iowa Women of Innovation Award in the Academic Innovation and Leadership category.