

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is pleased to invite you to a short digital course about the Collective Impact framework for computer science and other STEM education access initiatives. Apply now to join this free course.

Course announcement

4 weeks

16 hours

Jan. 16-Feb. 17 2017

Open access

# Collective Impact for Computer Science Education: Start to Design Backbone Functions

## Three good reasons to apply for this course

Collective Impact experts and practitioners from all over the country will be able to connect and share experience and practical 'know-how' that will help YOU build your backbone organization.

This course will use the Scholar Approach. In this hands-on pedagogy, you will learn by building knowledge you can use, working with other practitioners to discuss and reflect together in order to improve.

Some NSF INCLUDES grantees will continue to build their 'backbone organization' design during the face-to-face 'Backbone Design Workshop for Computer Science Education Collective Impact Initiatives' in Atlanta, Georgia on March 2 and 3, 2017.

## Is this course for you?

This course is open to everyone passionate about expanding computer science education opportunities.

- **For those new to Collective Impact**, this course provides an opportunity to learn the basics by developing the outline of a backbone organization for your own context.
- **For Collective Impact practitioners**, the course provides an opportunity to focus their expertise and experience to help improve the design and implementation of their backbone organizations.

Atlanta and Georgia education stakeholders, NSF INCLUDES funded Launch Pilot participants, staff from NSF and other federal agencies (DOE), philanthropic organizations, and tech companies are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants interested in the use of digital learning to broaden participation in training and capacity-building efforts are also welcome. Although communities working more broadly on STEM education initiatives are welcome to apply, priority will be given to those applicants who are focused more on Computer Science education.

## SAVE THE DATES

- ☑ **Applications will be accepted until Sunday 22 January, 2017.**  
You are strongly encouraged to apply no later than 15 January.
- ☑ **During the week of January 16–20,** applicants will be invited to attend an online briefing and complete pre-course orientation.
- ☑ **The course starts on January 23, 2017 and ends on February 17, 2017.**

Application, enrollment, and participation in this course are free of charge to individuals. We do encourage every participant to complete the course and will recognize this with a certificate of participation.

**CLICK HERE TO APPLY**



## Some of the questions that we will explore together in the course

1. What are the practical steps to design a backbone organization for your Collective Impact effort focused on computer science or STEM education initiatives?
2. How can companies play an enabling role in supporting community efforts to improve computer science/STEM education initiatives?
3. How may philanthropic investment in backbone organizations enable significant progress by a Collective Impact effort?
4. How can Collective Impact practitioners use the Scholar approach to broaden participation in training and capacity-building efforts?

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

### What is collective impact?

Collective Impact is a framework to tackle deeply entrenched and complex social problems. It is an innovative and structured approach to making collaboration work across government, business, philanthropy, non-profit organisations and citizens to achieve significant and lasting social change.

### What is a backbone organization?

A defining feature of the Collective Impact approach is the role of a backbone organisation – a separate organisation dedicated to coordinating the various dimensions and collaborators involved in the initiative.

### What is NSF INCLUDES?

The National Science Foundation (NSF) INCLUDES (Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science) program is a comprehensive initiative to enhance U.S. leadership in science and engineering by broadening participation in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

## How is the course organized?

Participants should be expected to dedicate 3-4 hours a week to the course. Those with limited fluency in English or digital (i.e., you find online tools difficult to use) should schedule an additional 1-2 hours per week.

Each participant will develop their own backbone outline draft, then review the draft outlines of three peers, and finally revise their own backbone outline.

This process will be broken down into short daily tasks (30 minutes each) to complete each day, Monday through Friday. We encourage you to complete each task on the day it is posted. Nevertheless, you are free to catch up any time during the week, preferably before the weekly discussion group.

As each week builds on the preceding week's activities, it is important that you do not fall behind the schedule.

The weekly 30-minute discussion group will be held as a virtual web meeting every Wednesday at 11 A.M. CST (US Central Standard Time) on January 18 and 25 and on February 1, 8, and 15.

The course will end with a one-hour digital Commencement Ceremony on 9 March 2017 at 11 A.M. CST to recognize the achievements of the group. Selected participants may be invited by the course team to present their course work.

## Schedule

Week	Dates	Weekly discussion group (30 minutes) 11 A.M. CST	Time req.
Orientation	16-20 January	18 January	3-4 hours
Week 1 – Discover	23-27 January	25 January	3-4 hours
Week 2 – Write	30 Jan. – 3 Feb.	1 February	3-4 hours
Week 3 – Review	6-10 February	8 February	3-4 hours
Week 4 – Revise	13-17 February	15 February	3-4 hours
Commencement	9 March 2017		1 hour

## What will you do in this course?

Each participant will develop a 'backbone organization' outline intended to contribute to their own local Computer Science/STEM Collective Impact initiative. In the course of drafting this outline, you will learn to:

- **Relate** the Collective Impact approach to your community's Computer Science/STEM education initiatives.
- **Distinguish** the Collective Impact approach from other collaboration strategies.
- **Recognize** core elements of Collective Impact in different settings/initiatives.
- **Explain** the complementary nature of the six essential functions of a backbone organization.
- **Distinguish** between different designs/structures of backbone organizations.
- **Identify** the most appropriate backbone organization design/structure for your Collective Impact effort.
- **Identify** tools and resources to help share your 'backbone organization' outline with other stakeholders in your community's Computer Science/STEM education initiatives.



# Course team

## Caitlin McMunn Dooley

Caitlin McMunn Dooley, Ph.D. is Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning for the Georgia Department of Education. She was a writer for the national Computer Science Education Frameworks and has been the principal investigator for several projects funded by the National Science Foundation for computer science education and learning technologies.



## Khurram Hassan

Khurram Hassan is currently coordinating a United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and Google-led CS out-of-school pilot initiative in Atlanta called the 'Atlanta Code Warriors' (ACW).



# Keynote presenters

## Chris Allers

Chris Allers, Ph.D. has led the design of collective impact strategies, including those focusing on improving high school education outcomes, early learning, and evacuee resettlement.



## Jeff Edmonson

Jeff Edmondson is managing director of StriveTogether, a national movement of 68 communities working to improve educational outcomes. It brings together leaders in Pre-K-12 schools, higher education, business, industry, community organizations, government leaders, parents, and other stakeholders who are committed to helping children succeed from cradle to career.



## Jennifer Splansky Juster

Jennifer Juster is one of FSG's leaders in collective impact field building. She speaks, writes, trains, and works on collective impact.



The Scholar facilitation team will support learners throughout the course.

## Requirements and prerequisites

- **Information technology:** Participants will need to have access to a reliable Internet connection and a modern browser (Safari 5+, Firefox, or Chrome). A headset with a microphone is necessary to participate in the weekly group discussion. You will need to access the course web site on a daily basis.
- **Collective impact expertise and experience:** Some experience with participation in local Collective Impact and/or effort around promoting Computer Science/STEM education is helpful, but not required.

## Cost

Application, enrollment, participation, and certification in this course are free of charge. We encourage participants to fully participate to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

## Certification

Participants who successfully complete the following will be eligible to receive a certificate of participation:

1. Participation in Community dialogue.
2. Participation in the weekly discussion group.
3. Submission of a draft backbone outline.
4. Peer review of three backbone outline drafts.
5. Submission of a finalized backbone outline.

## Confidentiality

During peer review, reviewers will not see the authors and vice versa. Once you have finished, your outline may be shared on your personal profile and in the community.

## Research

You may be asked to volunteer to take part in research to evaluate the impact of this course. If you do not agree, the research and evaluation team will collect no data. If you agree, you can stop at any time. Taking or not taking part will have no effect on your present or future relationship with any of the organizations involved in the course.

## Connect with us

Before the course starts, you are invited to connect with the course team and with other applicants on Facebook and Twitter. Once you are in the course, you will work in Scholar.



[CollectiveImpact4CompSciEducation](https://www.facebook.com/CollectiveImpact4CompSciEducation)

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Questions or comments? Send an e-mail to [impact@learning.foundation](mailto:impact@learning.foundation)