# Utah Exploring CS Initiative

## Overview

**About:** Offering a five-day workshop on Exploring CS, required for all Utah ECS teachers.

**Institution:** Westminster College / Brigham Young University / USOE

**Data for:** 2013/14

**PI/Leader:** Helen H. Hu (Westminster College)

**Age of Program:** 1 year

**Location:** Salt Lake City, UT

**School Districts:** All Utah School Districts

## Teachers Served

**Served:** 25 this year; 3 last year

**Dosage:** 35 hours in summer; 5 hours during school year

**Grade(s):** 9-12

**Characteristics:** In-service course, mostly IT and Business teachers

## Program Budget

**Sources:** NSF-CE21 #1240977

Utah State Office of Education

**Budget:** $200,000 (includes personnel costs, stipends, workshop costs and monthly meetings costs)
Learning Goals

1. Increase ECS teachers' understanding of
   – The creative nature of computing,
   – How technology is used to solve problems, and
   – How computers impact society
2. Increase teachers' knowledge of career paths and careers in computer science
3. Increase ECS teachers' skills in guided inquiry pedagogy
PD Structure

• Five day workshop
• Team: Gail Chapman, College CS professors, experienced Utah ECS high school teachers
• Participants: All Utah ECS teachers, including those who are currently teaching the course
Successes and Challenges

- ECS course meets Utah high school graduation requirement
- Widespread interest in ECS course
- Early reports that students seem to like the course
- Not embraced by everyone at USOE
- HS graduation requirement may soon be eliminated
- One ECS course was filled with students who had programming experience
Measures of Success

- ECS in 100 Utah schools by 2015
- Baseline vs Post-PD surveys
- Student test scores and demographics
- Enrollment in Computer Programming classes
- Classroom observation rubric