

Make It Happen! Innovation Grants

FINAL UPDATE

Note: This form is for **APPROVED GRANTS** only! Final updates are a requirement for the grants. The information provided will be posted on the Learning College website.

Directions: Fill out the form and email it to anne.holte@montgomerycollege.edu.

Project Name: The MC Computer Programming Competition

Project Director: Grigoriy Grinberg, Alla Webb



Final Update:

On Friday April 11, 2008, over 50 high school students competed in the annual High School Programming Competition at the MC Rockville Campus. Sponsored by a Make It Happen Grant and the Computer Science and Technologies Department, the contest brought talented students from 10 Montgomery County high schools (Montgomery Blair, Clarksburg, Paint Branch, Springbrook, Sherwood, Northwest, Gaithersburg, Richard Montgomery, Poolesville, and Damascus) to participate in a programming competition. Each team consisted of two-three students, with teams being placed in either the Beginning/Intermediate Level or Advanced/Intermediate Level, depending on what courses they had taken in their respective high schools. Each team had to demonstrate its programming skills and problem-solving abilities by attempting to solve a number of Java programming problems. A total of twenty teams competed, with six teams and seventeen students winning prizes.



The major goals of the competition were to provide contact between the Computer Science and Technologies Department and the students and teachers of local area high schools, and to involve MC students in an extramural activity requiring them to demonstrate critical thinking. The high school students were able to demonstrate to MC their skills at programming and Montgomery College was able to promote further study here. In addition, the competition allowed MC to start building long term positive relationship with the teachers of future MC students. College Students and Faculty benefited from the experience of organizing the programming competition, including

the design of problems, solution to the problems, and testing the programs. College students benefited from the experience of being judges, creating and testing competition problems.

Refreshments, including pizza and soft drinks, started the four-hour competition at 3 pm. After welcoming remarks and ground rules of the competition, teams competed in the computer laboratories in Humanities Building. Prizes included trophies, medals, USB memory sticks and computer programming books provided by the sponsors that included the Rockville campus book store and the following publishers: Pearson/Prentice Hall, Deitel, Thomson/Course Technology, Wiley, McGraw-Hill, and Murach, O'Reilly, John Wiley & Sons, Jones & Bartlett Publishing, Course Technologies and Apress.



The competition was proclaimed a major success by both attending high school students and teachers and those organizing the event. All teachers during the competition indicating that they would like to participate in a similar event next year, which the department is ready to do it. The MC students who participated were very excited and found it to be a great experience.

The organizers of the competition from the Computer Science and Technologies Department were, Project Directors of the Make It Happen Grant, Grigoriy Grinberg and Alla Webb, Department Chair, Professor Jeannette Wisniewski, and Administrative Aide, Ms. Mary K. O'Banner. All members of the department including professors Andy Yao, Janet Joy, Ida Justh, and Ray McDowall were involved and participated in different committees to prepare for the competition. Over thirty students from the Computer Science and Computer Application departments participated either as judges or as assistants. The competition computer/networking requirements were provided by the OIT personal Doug Kitchener, Hussein Elfadl, Guillermo Vega and Michael Botelho. Computer Science Department at UMUC was invited to attend and participate in judging the competition. As a result two UMUC professors, Nicholas Duchon and Duane Jarc actively helped to judge the competition. S K Bhaskar, the Dean of CS Department, and Jimmy Robertson, Director CMIS/CMSC, coordinated and helped by sending the above mentioned professors.

Thirty CS and CA students participated in competition as judges and volunteers. Over ten MC CS department students (Mark Klieger, Donald Cook, Joanne Mbakop, Ben Green, and others) were selected to create scenarios/problems to be solved in the competition. The MC college students benefited from the experience of designing questions and programs for the competition. MC students and CS department faculty members designed over 100 questions and programs for the competition. College photographer Don Rejonis was present during the whole competition to take photos.

In conclusion, the Programming Competition held on April the 12, 2008 was a great success that built on the foundation of augural competition held last year. We are planning to hold another competition last year with an aim to increase the number of schools and students participating with the goal being to further advertise Montgomery College and the

Computer Science and Information Technologies department to the wider general community.

You can also find news and photos: on the MyMC site: under **Announcements**
[High Schoolers Compete in Computer Programming at MC](#)

Event photo slide show:

http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/news/insidemcphotos/programming_competition/

My Web site:

http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/~ggrinber/2008MCProgrammingCompetitionWebSite/2008MCProgrammingCompetition_news.htm