

December 2, 2019

Dear Committee,

I enthusiastically write this letter of strong support for the development of a graduate Certificate for Teaching Computer Science in K-12. The Department of Computer and Information Sciences faculty recognize the dire need for qualified computer science teachers K-12 to fulfill the state's initiative to require every high school to teach at least one computer science course.

We especially are supportive of professional development for practicing teachers to learn how to make teaching computer science fun and engaging for students to broaden the participation in computing beyond current poor diversity norms in our college classes and in the tech field after college. We have a number of initiatives for recruitment and retention for diversity at the college level, but the pipeline needs to be broader entering college. By preparing teachers with proper CS knowledge, skills, and engaging pedagogy, we will be able to make strides towards broadening the pipeline.

Thus, our department strongly supports the development of a graduate certificate, as an interdisciplinary effort between the College of Education and Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

Sincerely,



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