

Recruiting Women into IT

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Abstract

There is a global decline in the number of women earning degrees in Information Technology (IT) and taking IT jobs. There has been a general decline in computer science enrollment over the past five years, with some estimates as high as 60%. Additionally, the percentage of women pursuing bachelor's degrees in computer science has declined from a 37% high in 1985 to 17% in 2003.

Enrollment in associate degree computer science programs in Ohio shows an encouraging 57% increase between 1999 and 2005. The bad news is that although females represent a consistent 64% of all associate degrees awarded in Ohio, the percentage of women who earned degrees in computer-related programs actually fell from 47% to 31%.

A statewide initiative was undertaken in 2006; ten colleges around the state planned a pilot event to help reverse the trend. Find out about our successful event, our plans for an even better event for 2007, and share information and ideas from your own experience.

Note: This paper was not available when the proceedings went to print. The author will provide handouts at the conference or via the web or email.