



Michael Panitz  
Cascadia Community College  
18345 College Way NE  
Bothell, WA, 98107

Program Officer  
Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program  
National Science Foundation

Dear NSF Program Officer,

I have read the *Computer Science Access and Opportunity Initiative (CSAOI)* proposal from Kelvin Sung for the NSF S-STEM program regarding recruiting and engaging Game-Themed Computer Science (GTCS) scholars in Computer Science discipline. I am enthused about the project because it does an excellent job of utilizing our substantial experience in educational game-themed programming to draw new populations into the field of computer science.

I am the Senior II Founding Faculty for Computer Science at Cascadia Community College. Since 2001 I have primarily taught freshmen and sophomore computer programming classes (CS0, CS1 and CS2), but have also taught math classes at both at the developmental and college levels. While many of our students do apply (and successfully transfer) to the Computing and Software Systems (CSS) division at University of Washington Bothell I believe that many more students could do so if they were exposed to programming in the right way. For example, the typical Cascadia Community College student is a younger, "traditional" student who will transfer to a four-year college, leaving Cascadia with either a business or liberal arts two year degree. All of these students would benefit substantially from having more computer science experience, and many of them would be great candidates for the University of Washington-Bothell's Computing and Software Systems programs (either as a major or as a minor). The outreach and retention project that Prof. Sung is proposing would be an excellent way to reach out to these students and to offer them a personally engaging entry point into computer science.

I am excited by the CSAOI proposal and should the proposal be successful, I am committed to working with Professor Sung in identifying potential GTCS scholars and connecting these students with the project such that the students can begin exploring Computer Science as a major earlier in their academic career.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Panitz", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Prof. Michael Panitz  
Founding Faculty (Senior 2) at Cascadia Community College