

**Coalition to Diversify Computing**  
A Joint Committee of the ACM & CRA  
<http://www.cdc-computing.org>  
Status Report for the period of July 1, 2015 – June 30 2016

Jeff Forbes and Charles Isbell (Co-Chairs)

**1. BASIC INFORMATION**

The Coalition to Diversify Computing (CDC) is a joint organization of the ACM and CRA. CDC has focused on the recruitment and retention of minorities in MS/PhD programs and the transition from the graduate programs to professional careers.

The following report represents an update on the activities and accomplishments for the Coalition to Diversify Computing for the period stated above.

**Leadership Team**

Jeff Forbes, Duke University (Co-Chair)

Charles Isbell, Georgia Institute of Technology (Co-Chair)

Jamika D. Burge, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Past-Chair)

Manuel A. Pérez-Quiñones, University of North Carolina, Charlotte (Past-Chair)

CDC had an in-person meeting on October 6, 2015 in Washington, DC.

**2. PROJECT SUMMARY**

1. Co-chairs attended CRA Board Meeting July 21-22 to learn about CRA priorities
2. Jamika Burge & Manuel Pérez-Quiñones presented workshop on Applying "Systems Thinking" and "Human Thinking" to Manage Career Growth at the CAHSI Summit on September 11, 2015
3. Convened meeting to discuss the future of CDC that resulted in:
  - a. Clarified and well-defined mission statement
  - b. Process for approving projects related to the mission
  - c. Commitment to continue working with CRA-W on Alliance projects
  - d. Framework for a new project tentatively named the CDC Grad Cohort  
The goal of the Grad Cohort is to increase the number of African American and Hispanic researchers in leadership in computing. The project will build a cohort of doctoral students at departments that produce the majority of faculty in computing.

4. Student Conference Program

*Quincy Brown*

Over the last year, two students have been selected for support to attend national and international conferences. Support to these students was \$1K each, and students were required to apply to receive support.

5. Academic Workshop for Underrepresented (Ethnic Minorities and People with Disabilities) Assistant & Associate Professors, and Senior Doctoral Students in Houston, TX, on April 7- 10, 2016

*Valerie Taylor, Bryant York*

### **Upcoming events**

6. Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing 2016 Conference in Austin, TX on September 14-17, 2016  
*General Chair: Dilma Da Silva, Program Chair: Dorian Arnold*

### **Collaboration with other groups**

*CDC/CRA-W Alliance:* By far the most fruitful collaboration that CDC has is with CRA-W. The two organizations run an NSF BPC Alliance that manages the following projects: Distinguished Lecture Series (DLS), Distributed Research Experiences for Undergraduates (DREU), Collaborative Research Experiences for Undergraduates (CREU), and the Discipline-Specific Workshops (DSW). The leadership team from CDC and the CRA-W co-chairs participate in regular monthly teleconferences to coordinate efforts and ensure the programs continue to run smoothly.

*CMD-IT:* A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the vision to contribute to the national need for an effective workforce in computing and IT through synergistic activities related to minorities and people with disabilities. The Executive Director is Valerie Taylor and the Chair of the Board of Directors is Bryant York. A CDC Co-chair participates in regular teleconferences.

*NCWIT Leadership Team:* The NCWIT has a leadership team group that is engaged in regular meeting activities. Pamela Williams is the CDC representative to the NCWIT team.

*CAHSI:* The CDC continues to collaborate with and support CAHSI, the Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Servicing Institutions, holding a workshop at the CAHSI summit in Puerto Rico (September 10-12, 2015).

### 3. **PLANS**

Effective May 2016, the Coalition to Diversify Computing (CDC) merged with the Center for Minorities and People with Disabilities in IT (CMD-IT). CDC and CMD-IT have collaborated closely on the Tapia Conferences and CMD-IT's Academic Career Workshops for Underrepresented Participants. Given the overlap of the missions of CDC and CMD-IT, along with their history of collaboration on programs to support the recruitment, retention, and advancement of minorities and people with disabilities in computing, a merger of the two organizations was appropriate. As part of the merger, the senior leadership team of CDC, Charles Isbell, Jeff Forbes, Jamika Burge and Manuel Perez-Quinones are now members of the CMD-IT Board of Advisors. CMD-IT will maintain the webpages detailing the history of CDC. Everyone is very excited about the new opportunities that will result from the merger.