

Fontana Unified School District

9680 Citrus Avenue • P.O. Box 5090 • Fontana, CA 92334-5090 • (909) 357-7600

Contact Oliver Wong Ah Sun, Ed.D.
Telephone (909) 357-7600 ext. 29106
Email Olivier.WongAhSun@fUSD.net
Website <http://www.fUSD.net/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2016

FONTANA UNIFIED JOINS DISTRICT CONSORTIUM TO STRENGTHEN COMMITMENT TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

FONTANA, CA – On March 15, the Fontana Unified School District, along with eight other school districts, announced the formation of the Inland Empire Code Consortium, the largest alliance of school districts in California to partner with the non-profit Code.org. The goal of this consortium is to increase participation in computer science courses by women and underrepresented students of various ethnic backgrounds.

Along with Fontana Unified, the consortium contains Corona-Norco Unified, Covina Valley Unified, Jurupa Unified, Perris Union High, Riverside Unified, San Jacinto Unified, Temecula Valley Unified and Val Verde Unified School Districts.

The partnership will begin with the training of the teachers in June 2016, while students will begin engaging with curriculum starting in the fall. Students within the participating districts will have increased access to computer science courses, curriculum and resources. The partnership will also provide new opportunities for professional development and training for Fontana Unified and Consortium district teachers, in addition to creating a sustainable program via a community of support for teachers.

Twenty-four FUSD teachers will receive professional development. Elementary teachers will receive one day of training to help them take what they already know and engage their students using Code.org curriculum and instructional strategies. Teachers at the middle schools will receive 55 hours of training focusing on integrating computer science into algebra and science. High school teachers will have 94 hours of in-person and online training to help us implement two new courses, AP Computer Science Principles and Exploratory Computer Science that will give high school students introductory exposure to computer science, as well as a more in depth course of study.

“By 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is projecting that there will be one million new jobs around coding throughout the world,” said Superintendent Dr. Leslie Boozer. “We are in the process of developing new career pathways that will engage students in coding and robotics, which will provide our students training for that future world.”

Code.org is a non-profit dedicated to expanding computer science education by making it available in more schools, and increasing participation by women and minorities. Their vision is that every student in

every school should have the opportunity to have access to computer science education. Code.org believes computer science should be part of the core curriculum in education, alongside other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses, such as biology, physics, chemistry and algebra.

“Code.org is excited to partner with Fontana Unified and all of the partner districts to expand access to computer science. They are among the handful of districts leading the nation in this movement,” said Cameron Wilson of Code.org. “This partnership can help change the lives of the districts’ students by preparing them to think critically about real world problems and put them on a pathway toward the highest demand jobs in the U.S. economy.”

###