Community-Building Initiatives at CMU

Note: This list was compiled to the best of the ability of instructors but is likely not exhaustive. We appreciate any suggestions for initiatives to add to this list! To make a suggestion, please email a course instructor.

Motivation

Often, students would like to be more active in increasing the inclusivity of our campus community, but they aren't sure where to start. Getting involved is also a great way to build a bigger support system at CMU! This document lists initiatives that are ongoing at various levels at CMU toward increasing the strength and inclusivity of CMU communities. Additions are requested and welcome!

CSD-level

Organization	Description	To get involved or learn more, contact:
CSD DEI Committee	In August 2020, CSD formed its own diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committee, which is headed by Bryan Parno and composed of students, staff, and faculty. The committee proposes and undertakes initiatives to increase the diversity of our community, and ensure that our existing community is inclusive to all.	Bryan Parno bparno@andrew
15-996 Course	Students can help contribute to and improve the CS JEDI Intro course for future semesters! You can apply to be an instructor (details coming soon), or if you want to help make changes to the curriculum, come chat with the instructors about how you can pitch in. This can be as simple as giving detailed feedback / suggestions, or you can get more involved by helping redesign course modules.	Bailey Flanigan bflaniga@andrew
CSD Social Warming	This is a new committee of CSD students working on vitalizing the social climate among CSD PhD students.	Pallavi Koppol pkoppol@andrew.cmu.edu
CSD Doctoral Review Committee	The Doctoral Review Committee (DRC) is an advisory committee composed of students, staff, and faculty to the director of graduate programs (Karl Crary) and the department head (Srini Seshan). This committee helps influence department-level decision-making and policy implementation. Participation on this committee is generally reserved for more senior students and is by invite only, but you can increase your chances by expressing your interest to be on the committee.	Karl Crary crary@andrew
15-996 course library	Learn more about JEDI topics and others experiences by reading some great books! The library for this course is available year-round for CSD PhD students. Reserve a book online, and/or pick up / check out books in GHC 6002.	Ananya Joshi aajoshi@andrew Bailey Flanigan bflaniga@andrew

SCS-level

Organization	Description	To get involved or learn more, contact:
[SCS DPAC](#)	**If you want to start your own initiative or get involved with an ongoing initiative, DPAC is the place to start.** DPAC, the SCS Dean's PhD Advisory Committee, is a group of SCS PhD students that advises Martial Hebert, the Dean of SCS, and creates new student-proposed campus community initiatives. They run popular initiatives such as coffee chats (from the social-connectedness working group), and have other ongoing initiatives on improving student wellness, improving advising relationships across SCS, etc.	Official contact email: scs.phd.committee@gmail.com
[CS Pathways](#)	**CS Pathways** is an office at CMU responsible for several major initiatives to increase access to computing education for underserved students in the Pittsburgh area. They have multiple regular opportunities for both paid positions and volunteer opportunities of varying time commitments, ● During the summer, you can be a TA for CS pathways' summer programs, *AI4ALL* and *CS Scholars* (this is a paid gig) ● Students can also help teach at *Crack the Code*, a programming intensive held for local kids on Saturdays - that program happens year round. ● For volunteer opportunities involving sustained relationships with the community, CS pathways can put students in touch with our partners at *Beta Builders*, the Boys and Girls Clubs, or Homewood Children's Village. ● *Low time commitment:* you can sign up to be on the list of students who will be asked to show local students around their labs when they come for tours and visits to SCS, and tell them about what they're working on/why they got into CS as a field. ● CS Pathways is starting to explore in-house support options for current undergraduates who might need tutoring support to thrive (especially students whose high schools didn't prepare them well for CMU). If any of these sound cool to you, contact the CS pathways office!	cspathways@andrew.cmu.edu
[Technights](#)	Technights is a fun weekly event where SCS grad students can help mentor middle school girls from the Pittsburgh area in computer science. At each Technights event, a few CMU students lead an accessible activity on a CS topic (e.g., contact lookup in a cellphone to learn about hash tables), and then the students work through the activity in groups with the help of additional CMU students.	Yutong Qiu yutongq@andrew.cmu.edu Elysia Saputra elysia.saputra@pitt.edu
[SCSForAll](#)	SCS4ALL is a student-run, non-profit organization that works to develop a program of social and professional activities and leadership opportunities to broaden participation and interest in computing by underrepresented groups such as women, minorities, students, and teachers in K-12.	To get involved, just attend a meeting: https://www.cmu.edu/scs/scs4all/events/index.html
SCSForAl1y	SCS is launching a new student group, focused on accessibility, with three goals: 1) teaching accessibility; 2) accessible teaching; and 3) encouraging accessibility in our community. Teaching accessibility will	Fern Limprayoon, jlimpray@andrew.cmu.edu

	focus on encouraging students…to learn more about the importance of accessibility thinking in software development in the industry and share what they learn during the program with the SCS community. Accessible teaching will focus on making course syllabi and content accessible, and on TA training. Encouraging accessibility will take the form of awards and events to excite the community about this topic, such as just-in-time lectures and hackathons.	
BiasBusters	BiasBusters@CMU is a workshop on implicit bias offered regularly to CMU community members. It is modeled on Google's Bias Busting@ Work program, and developed in concert with Google. BiasBusters sessions are led by members of the CMU community who have volunteered to be trained as program facilitators. BiasBusters@CMU now reaches communities across the Carnegie Mellon campus. Several things distinguish BiasBusters@CMU from similar programs. First is the framing: the program has an academic tone, focusing on summaries of research evidence into which discussions of experience are woven. Second, the role-playing, based on relevant and real life scenarios, has proved to be a powerful and effective approach for engaging participants, both at Google and at CMU, creating commitments to greater inclusivity.	scs-dei@cs.cmu.edu
SCS DEI Updates	Subscribe to receive a regular newsletter of SCS DEI Updates.	scs-dei@cs.cmu.edu

CMU-level

Tech4Society	Tech4Society is a group of graduate and undergraduate CMU students who work closely with local Pittsburgh grassroots organizations doing social good. We volunteer technical skills to address their needs.	cmutech4society@gmail.com
Tartan Allies	Tartan Allies is a 3-session focus group run by the CMU Center for Diversity and inclusion on how to be an ally to those in the LGBTQIA2S+ community. Participants can choose the number of sessions they wish to complete. "Join us for Tartan Allies sessions if you are interested in becoming part of this inclusive and supportive community."	If you're interested just show up for a session!
Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion events	The CMU Center for Diversity and Inclusion offers several events providing support to identity-based groups and programs for learning more about JEDI topics in a supportive community environment. Peruse events, register, and/or find out how to attend at the link on the left.	Email: csdi@andrew.cmu.edu (Or visit the center, on the lower level of the Cohon University Center)
CMQ+	We're the group for LGBTQIA+ grad students and allies at CMU! For announcements, please join our mailing list and follow us on social media (FB, Instagram)!	allies-grad-owner@lists.andrew.cmu.edu
Additional informational resources:		

- **CMU Campus Communities**: a list of campus communities at CMU, some of which are dedicated to DEI & inclusion
- **D&I Events Calendar**: See this calendar for CMU events relating to diversity and inclusion
- **CMU Employee Resource Groups** (ERGs): anyone at CMU can start an ERG to undertake an initiative.
- **CMU DEI Homepage**: overview of DEI at CMU
- **CMU DEI commitments**: Tracker of ongoing CMU-level DEI initiatives at CMU
- **Civility, Diversity, and Inclusion Trainings from CMU**: DEI training and awareness programs through CMU