

## SUZANNE MENZEL

Suzanne Menzel was a faculty member in the computer science (CS) department from 1989 to 2019. She has been a pillar of the CS undergraduate program and the heart and soul of diversity outreach in the department and more broadly in the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering. For 30 years, Suzanne worked closely with other faculty members to create a vital curriculum for core courses in CS. She embraced active learning strategies and was an early adopter of team-based learning and peer-led team learning. She established and directed a long-running peer tutoring program to support the core programming courses. She consistently received the top teaching evaluations in the department. In 2012, she was inducted into the Faculty Academy on Excellence in Teaching (FACET) at IU.

Suzanne actively recruited, encouraged, and engaged in mentoring underrepresented groups to consider CS throughout her career. She has found ways to help build the pipeline from K–12 through graduate school.

In response to a national initiative in 2003, Suzanne created an IU chapter of the Java Engagement for Teacher Training (JETT), which helped 35 regional high school teachers learn how to program Java in anticipation of AP CS major course changes. During these workshops, which ran from 2003–05, Suzanne raised funds, recruited students and faculty to create the tracks, and ran many sessions herself. Among about 20 JETT chapters nationwide, the IU workshops were the first to invite seasoned AP teachers to provide advice and support to high school teachers in the transition to the new curriculum.

Suzanne also supported the Indiana University Women in Computing group where she advocated, secured funding, and helped train students to give “roadshow” presentations, called Just Be, around the Midwest to dispel myths about computing and engage younger students. Through her leadership, Just Be was presented to over 50 groups that included more than 3,000 students aged 10 to 25. The demand for these presentations was such that Suzanne got funding and co-organized workshops to train students from Indiana colleges (Computing Outreach in Indiana) and 20 HBCUs about how to create their own roadshows.



Suzanne recruited more students into CS through replicating best practices such as Try It!, which identified 20 undergraduate women likely to be successful in CS based on past math scores. She also held workshops to show students how enjoyable coding can be and to point them toward future opportunities, and coordinated and evaluated peer mentoring sessions to help CS1 and CS2 students successfully complete coursework.

In 2004, she and Gloria Townsend pioneered a model for small regional celebrations of women in computing, based on the Grace Hopper Celebration, and continued to organize the Indiana Celebration of Women in Computing for over a decade. Today there are more than 30 such conferences held annually worldwide that ensure women in Indiana have networking and professional development opportunities.

Before her retirement, Suzanne launched the HelloResearch initiative, based on a program at Carnegie Mellon University called OurCS, which aims to bring more women into leadership positions by encouraging research careers. HelloResearch connects undergraduates from across the country with world-class researchers from academia and industry for intensive research experiences. The three-day, research-focused workshop for undergraduates brought 92 underrepresented people from 47 universities in 21 states to learn about research from 12 hands-on projects led by

27 regional experts. Suzanne was the major force behind all the activities. First, she recruited and selected students from across the country, found tens of thousands of dollars in funding to pay for their travel, and arranged their accommodations; second, she recruited faculty mentors from IU and other universities, and worked with them to develop research projects suitable for a weekend; third, she created websites, brochures, and videos; fourth, she found keynote speakers, including a distinguished researcher from Google; fifth, she consulted with experts to make the program accessible to as many as possible, including visually or hearing impaired attendees; and, finally, Suzanne managed the logistics of actually running the program. The entire event was a resounding success. As if all that weren't enough, afterwards she led a team of faculty in writing a Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE) paper about the experience so that others could replicate this event.

Suzanne actively published findings from these activities and was often sought for her knowledge on how to implement these impactful programs. She has organized numerous conferences and workshops for CS education and has been invited to speak at national and international conferences. She has published a collection of CS education papers as well.

Because of Suzanne Menzel, many people, especially women, have been inspired to join and succeed in the field of computing. There are literally hundreds of researchers and employees at elite companies who give credit to Suzanne for sparking their interest and inspiring their studies in CS. She has a talent for creating communities among students who teach and support each other in their studies. As a small recognition of her legacy and to honor Suzanne's special contributions, the Department of Computer Science established in 2019 the Suzanne Menzel Senior Recognition Award for outstanding seniors pursuing graduate school, in recognition of their leadership and activities that improve and expand the CS community through teaching and mentoring.

*Amr Sabry*