Diversity Initiative in Computer Science Project Proposal

Chapman University

CPSC-298-06: Minorities in Computer Science

Project Title: Closing the Technology Gap in Rural American Schools

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Problem/Opportunity:

- *Students in low-income areas have unequal access to technology in comparison to their higher-income counterparts, and we want to bring resources to these areas.*

Identify the statistics supporting your problem claim

- *From 2016-2018 LA (22.3%), Santa Barabara, and El Dorado County had the highest poverty rates in southern california*
- *The California Public Utilities Commission reported, from an EdSource data analysis, that only about 30% of rural households have at-home internet access compared to 78% in more urban areas.*
- *A poll conducted by EdSource and FM3 Research found that 42% of California families cite poor connection for distance learning difficulties, while 29% reported lack of devices being the biggest challenge.*
- *Make sure you are CITING your sources with formal citations*

Project Type

- Fundraiser

Main Goal Statement

- Allow students in low-income areas have increased access to the same technology available at more funded schools by the end of 2021.

Objective(s)

We will fundraise $8,000 by the end of the 2021 calendar year.

Project Leadership

- Bailey Allord - Establishing initiative main goals
- Mitch Melby - Gathering statistics for proposal
- Devin Keller - Identified areas with highest poverty rates and potential use of funds
- Tyler Woo - Proposing dependencies, risks, and solutions

Project Steps

Clearly state the major steps necessary to complete the project goals and objectives. List steps sequentially.

1) Identify rural areas in southern California that have highest rates of poverty and students meeting low-income thresholds.
2) Conduct surveys to find out what technology is lacking in these low-income zones that is available at similar, more funded areas nearby.
3) Send out donation fliers/reach out to possible patrons.
4) Contact tech companies to perhaps buy technology directly from suppliers (perhaps in bulk/at a discount).
5) Distribute donated funds and/or acquired technology to people in areas of need.

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Functional Team and Other Resources

- *Local school officials*
- *Survey software and conductors*
- *School administrators*
- *Donors lists / connections*

Dependencies and Risks:

- Is the success of the project dependent on other factors?
- The COVID-19 restrictions currently in place may affect the accessibility of communicating with school officials. It may be difficult to gauge what technological resources and how desperately they are needed from a virtual perspective.
- Are there significant risks to proper completion of the project or objectives?

Please feel free to add any other information or attach documents which will be helpful in understanding the project.

Sources:

Make sure you are including API format citations, including In-Text Citation!

Resource for help: https://www.mendeley.com/guides/apa-citation-guide

Children living in low-income working families, by city, school district and county(10,000 residents or more). (n.d.). Kidsdata.Org. Retrieved January 25, 2021, from https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/789/low-income-families10/table#fmt=1204&loc=366,2,127,1763,331,348,336,171,321,345,357,332,324,369,358,362,360,337,327,364,356,217,353,328,354,352,320,339,334,365,343,330,367,344,355,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,322,341,338,350,342,329,325,359,351,363,340,335&tf=107&sortType=asc

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Poverty in california. (n.d.). *Public Policy Institute of California*. Retrieved January 25, 2021, from https://www.ppic.org/publication/poverty-in-california/

Update on efforts to expand internet access—Year 2020(Ca dept of education). (n.d.). Retrieved January 25, 2021, from https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel46.asp

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