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Title: CS Ed PhD Students Unite!

Abstract: The number of PhD students researching Computer Science Education worldwide is growing. This is an organized opportunity for all those attending the largest Computer Science Education Conference to meet one another. After introductions the attendees will have the opportunity to discuss research goals, job opportunities and career trajectories, future conference and publication plans, and even compare advisor stories. Undergraduates and masters students interested in a CS Ed PhD are also encouraged to attend and ask questions.

Significance and Relevance of the Topic: This time for meeting one another is very significant to the CS Ed PhD students in attendance. Without this BOF the only way to connect with one another is through chance or introduction through a mutual acquaintance. It is very important for this group to be able to meet and form its own community, as these people will likely be their peers in future research endeavors. The opportunity to network, form future collaborations, and exchange ideas and stories in a non-pressurized situation may prove fruitful in both tangible and unknown ways in their future efforts. Who knows when the chance meeting today leads to a successful grant proposal down the road? Ever since the Doctoral Consortium moved from SIGCSE to ICER, there has been no formal organized meeting for PhD students attending SIGCSE. This BOF would serve that purpose.

If nothing else, simply knowing others are experiencing feelings and emotions similar to yours can be extremely comforting during the trying time of pursuing a PhD. Hearing others relate their personal accounts of surviving qualifying exams or orals, preparing and defending the dissertation, switching advisors and still making progress can be heartening to others. There are benefits to be had by all by identifying as part of the community.

Expected Audience: The audience is expected to consist of current CS Ed PhD students who are attending SIGCSE. In any given year there are at least 10, and because the worldwide number of CS Ed PhD students is growing, this community may also grow. Undergraduate and masters students who may be interested in pursuing a CS Ed PhD are also encouraged to attend. They can ask questions of current PhD students and possibly find advisors and institutions who support this research. I estimate the audience to be at least 15 people.

Discussion Leader(s): In addition to myself, Jennifer Tsan of North Carolina State, Rachel Harsley of University of Illinois at Chicago, and Francis Enrique Vicente Castro of Worcester Polytechnic Institute will help lead the discussion.

Expertise of Discussion Leader(s): Briana Morrison is a 5th year PhD student at the Georgia Institute of Technology and a SIGCSE community member for 15 years. Jennifer Tsan is a 2nd year PhD student at NC State. Rachel Harsley is a 4th year PhD student at University of Illinois at Chicago. Francis Castro is a 2nd year PhD student at WPI. All were participants of the ICER Doctoral Consortium in August, 2015.

Special Requirements, if any: No special audio-visual equipment will be needed. A flip chart would be helpful to allow posting of names, emails, and research area.