Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: AJ BIESZCZAD
DEPARTMENT: COMPUTER SCIENCE
ACTIVITY TITLE: ACM INTERCOLLEGIATE PROGRAMMING CONTEST
DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: 11/12/13

E-mail to the IRA Coordinator with supporting documentation at lisa.ayre-smith@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity.

Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;

THE STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN AN ANNUAL, INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PROGRAMMING CONTEST SPONSORED BY ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY (ACM), IBM, AND GOOGLE THAT INVOLVES OVER 1800 UNIVERSITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD SENDING OVER 6000 TEAMS TO NUMEROUS REGIONAL CONTEST. OUR UNIVERSITY BELONGS TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION. THE STUDENTS COMPETE AGAINST PEERS FROM VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INCLUDING CALTECH, USC, ALL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UC AND CSU CAMPUSES, NUMEROUS PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS SOME OF THE BEST COMMUNITY COLLEGES. IN ADDITION TO IMPROVING THEIR SKILLS AS COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS, THE EVENT ALLOWS OUR STUDENTS TO EXPAND THEIR HORIZONS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM, AND THE CSUCI.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

PROGRAMMING IS A FUNDAMENTAL SKILL THAT IS TAUGHT IN NUMEROUS COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES: COMP105 INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE AND PROGRAMMING, COMP150 INTRODUCTION TO OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING, COMP151 ALGORITHMS AND DATA STRUCTURES, COMP232 PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES, COMP350 SOFTWARE ENGINEERING, COMP351 DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING, COMP450 ADVANCED OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING, AND MANY OTHERS THAT HAVE SMALLER OR LARGER PROGRAMMING COMPONENTS.

THE CONTEST IS A COMPETITION BETWEEN TEAMS OF THREE STUDENTS THAT HAVE TO SHARE ONE COMPUTER TRYING TO SOLVE SIX DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN A FIVE-HOUR SESSION. THE

INSTRUCTIONALLY
RELATED
ACTIVITIES

CHANNEL
ISLANDS

California State
University

TEAMS HAVE TO PRACTICE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS TO PREPARE FOR THE EVENT. FOR THAT, THE ELIGIBLE STUDENTS ENROLL IN COMP450 ADVANCED OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING, AND SOME MAY PARTICIPATE THROUGH COMP497 DIRECTED STUDIES (E.G., IF PARTICIPATING SECOND TIME).

THROUGH THIS ACTIVITY, THE STUDENTS EXERCISE NOT ONLY PROGRAMMING BUT ALSO INTERPERSONAL SKILLS WORKING AS MEMBERS OF A COMPETING TEAM. TEAMWORK IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE COMPUTER PROGRAMMING PROFESSION, AND THE INDUSTRY REQUIRES THAT THESE PROFESSIONALS HAVE EXCELLENT TEAMWORK EXPERTISE.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

PROGRAMMING IS AN ESSENTIAL SKILL OF EVERY COMPUTER SCIENTIST, SO THE PARTICIPANTS GET BETTER THROUGH PRACTICE. TEAMWORK IS AN ESSENTIAL SKILL TO SUCCEED IN THE WORKPLACE, SO WORKING IN TEAMS PROMOTES THIS BEHAVIOR. THE PARTICIPATING STUDENTS BOND SOCIALLY AND CONSTITUTE THE CORE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT BODY IN THE COMING SEMESTERS.

CI ATTIRE IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF BONDING AND SHOWING CI PRIDE.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

LACK OF TIME FOR PRACTICING MORE INTENSELY.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

GET BETTER ATTIRE; WE HAVE TO ALWAYS LOOK FOR SOME DISCOUNTED LOWER GRADE MERCHANDISE.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

I HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR 10 YEARS, SO I THINK I HAVE ALL THE PUZZLE PIECES IN PLACE. WAITING FOR THE YOUNGER FACULTY TO TAKE OVER.

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)

VERY FAVORABLE. STUDENTS PLANNED TO START A COMPUTER CLUB SECTION FOR PRACTICING PROBLEM SOLVING.

8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

ALMOST ON THE SPOT, BUT WE WILL NEED TO INCREASE THE REQUEST FOR THE BUS, SINCE ROAD RUNNER'S PRICES WENT UP.

B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document,* attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. (attach these photos in JPEG format directly to email). Thank you!