CS-LISTEN Escondido High School

Research Question

What are the perceptions and factors that contribute to students participating in Computer Science classes at EHS?

BACKGROUND

Description of Escondido High

- A school within a residential area.
  (1535 N Broadway, Escondido, CA 92026)
- Demographics: Hispanic/Latino: 80% (1772), White: 11.6% (258) , Asian: 2.5% (55), Black: 2% (49), Filipino: 1.9% (42), Two or more races: .6% (13), American Indian/Alaska Native: .5% (11)
- Number of students: 2,215

METHODOLOGY

Methods	The methods we used to acquire data was through both surveys and interviews. The survey was given out in the form of a Google Form and interviews were held in-person.
Data	We focused on collecting data from 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. For the survey, we had 276 students participate. As for the interviews, 50 students were interviewed on campus. Based on the data, the most common reasons why students do not take CS classes is due to scheduling issues, many think it is a difficult course, or they just never heard about it. Some students often stereotype the course and believe that only smart people take the class and that they are incapable of learning anything in it.

RESULTS

The data we've collected tell us that students tend to know nothing about Computer Science, or aren't interested in it, until they take it. Students think Computer Science is too hard, or only for smart people, which leads them to not take it. Negative perceptions stem from stereotypes about Computer Science. For example: only for smart people, involves math, it's too hard. However, once students take Computer Science, the negative perceptions go away. However, students may not be able to take CS anyways due to scheduling conflicts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Our findings lead us to recommend:
- Signs & Flyers
- More T-shirts, Stickers, & special merch
- Advertise to Junior classes and hour of code before choosing new schedule
- Better seating (pair tables for coding!)
- More promoting of classes and club
- Create/improve social media

We can begin to tackle the issue that we researched with these recommendations by having more equipment in class and to be able to promote Computer Science.