

## Research Question

## How do we encourage CS 1 students to continue the CS pathway?

## BACKGROUND

### **Mission Vista High/ Vista Unified SD**

- Located in a suburban community approximately 25 miles north of San Diego
- Magnet School with an emphasis in the areas of Arts & Communication as well as Science & Technology
- Operates on a 4x4 block schedule
- 1660 Students
- 44.7% White, 37% Hispanic, 9.2% Asian, 4.3% Filipino, 3.1% African-American
- 40% Socioeconomically disadvantaged

## Alumni Interview Highlights

- Exposure to CS early
- Get students to take CS1 as 9th or 10 graders
- Give more support with the complex concepts of object-oriented programming
- Need to get feedback from female alumni



This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1923406.



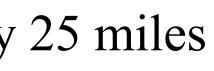
# **CS-LISTEN Mission Vista HS**





















## METHODOLOG

- received.
- experiences

- MVHS help them now





• Survey emailed to 273 students who had taken at least one CS course. 137 responses were

• Survey targeted 3 groups: those who will make CS1 the final course, those who plan to take CS2, and those who are taking/have taken CS2 or beyond. Each group was analyzed separately. • Created a survey that mainly targeted personal

• The survey employed skip logic and asked different questions based on previous questions

• Interviewed 14 MVHS CS Alumni over Zoom who are either in college (5) or in a career (9). • Interviews were transcribed and responses consolidated into a Google Sheet.

• Questions focused on how their experiences at

• Asked what could have been done better



## SURVEY FINDINGS

- A majority of students have an increased interest in Computer Science after taking CS1 Group that stopped after CS1:
- 51.7% took CS1 as a senior
- the course
- had scheduling conflicts
- Group that plans to take CS2:
- 60.9% were 9th graders in CS1
- Group in CS2 Currently or Beyond:
- $\circ$  42.9% ran out of schedule space • 28.6% finished all CS courses • 28.6% lost interest

- exposure to CS prior to taking CS1



- successful in CS
- Offer middle school afterschool program
- Pathway advertisement
- Introduce more work with Python
- Incorporate more group projects





• 24/33 (72.72%) said they were more interested in CS after taking • 6/24 (25%) of those who said they were more interested said they • Main reasons students stop after CS1 are 1) they are seniors or 2) they don't feel they are smart enough • 91.3% reported an enjoyment level of at least a 4 • 63% rated CS1 difficulty levels as moderate (2-3) and 37% rated CS1 difficulty levels as challenging (4-5) • 50% of students who continued on took CS1 in 10th grade • 33.9% said no for continuing CS classes • Over half chose to continue the CS pathway because they desire to learn more about the computer science field. • About  $\frac{1}{3}$  wants a possible career or degree in computer science. • The remaining respondents are continuing as they enjoyed CS1 • Students that complete the CS pathway have had previous

## Beginning

• Expose students to CS before they take CS1 • to give an increased interest in CS  $\circ$  to gain confidence that they are smart enough to be

 $\circ$  to lead to more students continuing the pathway, and • to get them to start CS1 earlier