Workshop on Developing Effective Teaming & Presentation Skills to Facilitate Collaborative Software Development

Ms. Margaret R. Heil & Dr. Robert J. Fornaro
Associate Director & Director, Senior Design Center
Department of Computer Science, North Carolina State University
Box 8206, Raleigh North Carolina 27695 USA
heil@csc.ncsu.edu  fornaro@csc.ncsu.edu

In today’s global work environment, inclusive and clear communication has become increasingly important. Educators have the responsibility to equip computer science and software engineering undergraduates with communication skills that can help them, as budding professionals, to manage these global challenges. Participants of this workshop will learn about a spectrum of work approaches and communication styles; they will learn to use this information so that they may teach students how to develop more effective teaming skills and more effective technical presentations related to software development. If students are armed with such skills, they will carry keys to successful collaborative software development.

The objectives of this workshop are as follows:

1. Learn how to recognize differences in personal work approaches and communication styles,
2. Learn how to apply this knowledge when working on a team whose charge is to develop software,
3. Learn how to map various work approaches and communication styles to specific components of a technical presentation related to developing software (e.g., ways to present requirements, design, code and testing).

Participants of this workshop will:

1. Take a test to identify their "True Colors" (the True Colors™ philosophy focuses on the importance of understanding the core values that motivate various communication styles and work approaches).
2. Explore strategies that focus on blending various communication styles to facilitate interaction within a team and preparing/delivering an oral technical presentation related to software development.
3. Prepare (in small teams) and deliver short technical presentations that illustrate a blended approach to communication.
4. Evaluate short presentations given to them by their peers, using an evaluation form that will be supplied and discussed during the workshop. This form will help the audience to assess blended components of the presentations.

Workshop format will include interactive lecture, small group discussion and reporting out to larger group. Prerequisites for this workshop are that participants are willing to contribute to this effort and to learn from it!

Participants will be asked to complete an evaluation form prior to the workshop containing questions pertaining to expectations of the workshop. Participants will be asked to complete an evaluation form after the workshop containing questions pertaining to how or if their expectations of the workshop were met.