Dynamic and Contemporary Science Fair Projects for CPS Students

IPRO 330
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The Problem

“International and domestic comparison show that American students have not been succeeding in the mathematical part of their education at anything like a level expected of an international leader.”

Previous Accomplishments (Fall 2008)

- Visited Chicago Public Schools to promote the website
- Judged over a dozen CPS science fairs to understand better the needs of the science fair program
- Created lab note-taking and lab techniques sections
- Publicized and marketed our website through CPS and Science Chicago (LabFest)
Proposed Features of Student Lab

- Run by IIT students and project director
- Lab equipment and science fair project materials
- Project presentation assistance
- Potential set curriculum based on simple experiments
The Brand New Plan

- Design a Inquiry-Based Science Center for high school students on the IIT campus
- Integrate the website to this plan, minimize maintenance, assess usability
Work done thus far…

- Contact with several university offices
- Survey for CPS teachers/parents
- Letters of support from teachers
- Rough draft outline of proposal
- Usability testing
# The Sub-Team Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Proposal Team</th>
<th>Website Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Gather information on potential grant donors as well as grant writing formats</td>
<td>• Assess the usability of the website</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Communicate with university officials about our plan</td>
<td>• Attend to any maintenance issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Actual composition of grant proposal</td>
<td>• Add features as necessary, such as project generator</td>
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Present and Expected Difficulties

- Delays in communication
- Group dynamics
- Obtaining support from parents and teachers
- Meeting proposal deadline dates
- Developing an effective curriculum
- Lab space
- Sustaining proposed lab center
Questions…!