Cracking the diversity code: Understanding computing pathways of those least represented in order to foster their representation

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Abstract: A significant gap exists in the understanding of factors that influence the participation of Black and Hispanic women in computer science. The objective is to listen to those often unheard in the conversation around broadening participation in computer science, in order to critically examine efforts and initiatives that impact engagement. This talk will describe the journey towards this objective and preliminary results. The outcomes of this work have the potential to reshape the community’s perceptions of what and who are computer scientists as well as crack the code to diversifying this lucrative and impactful discipline.

Biography: Monique Ross earned a doctoral degree in Engineering Education from Purdue University. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Engineering from Elizabethtown College, a Master’s degree in Computer Science and Software Engineering from Auburn University, eleven years of experience in the industry as a software engineer, and five years as a full-time faculty in the departments of computer science and engineering. Her interests focus on broadening participation in computer science through the exploration of: 1) race, gender, and identity; 2) discipline-based education research (with a focus on computer science courses) in order to better inform pedagogical practices that garner interest and retain women and minorities in computer-related fields. She is the PI on three National Science Foundation grants, one foundation grant, and co-PI on two large scale grants. Dr. Monique Ross is committed to the expansion of rigorous computer science education research at FIU and nationally. https://www.cis.fiu.edu/faculty-staff/ross-monique/

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