



*Please Join Us for a Policy Roundtable Event*

## **BEYOND CODING: Advancing K-12 Computer Science Education in Texas**

**Monday, October 26, 2015**

1:00-2:30 pm

Texas State Capitol Extension Auditorium

### **WHY COMPUTER SCIENCE MATTERS:**

#### **Computer science teaches kids to be problem solvers and innovators.**

- The skills learned through these courses - *critical thinking, logic, cross-team collaboration, and problem solving* - are fundamental for success in the twenty-first century.

#### **Computer science skills are in demand in the job market.**

- By 2020, there will be 1,000,000 more computing jobs than the graduates to fill them, resulting in a \$500 billion opportunity gap.

#### **We are not preparing our students to take advantage of these opportunities.**

- Less than 2% of all Texas high school students took a computer science course for each of the last five years.
- Only 90 Texas teachers passed the Grades 8-12 Computer Science certification exam in 2013/2014.

### **AGENDA:**

***Today's Landscape: Computer Science Education, Equity & Workforce Needs*** *The status of computer science education in Texas, equity challenges and the growing gap with workforce needs.*

*Alex Meade, Mission Economic Development Corporation*

*Carol Fletcher, Associate Director, Texas Regional Collaboratives, University of Texas at Austin*

*Ray Hsu, Section Manager Academic Programs, National Instruments*

Moderated by Drew Scheberle, Austin Chamber

***A Closer Look: Computer Science Education in Action*** *A look at model school and district programs in Texas and how they're overcoming barriers to expand access to computer science and what challenges remain.*

*Kim Garcia, Educational Technology Coordinator, Georgetown ISD*

*Michelle Wallis, Executive Director, Austin ISD Office of Innovation and Development*

*Henry Vo, Computer Science teacher, Richardson ISD*

Moderated by Jennifer Bergland, TCEA

#### ***Legislative Solutions to Address Education and Workforce Needs in Computer Science***

*Overview of legislative efforts nationally and in Texas and a discussion of opportunities for action in the 84th Legislative Session.*

*The Honorable Dwayne Bohac, State Representative, District 138*

*The Honorable Donna Howard, State Representative, District 48*

*Amy Hirota, Advocacy and Policy Manager, Code.org*

Moderated by Caroline Joiner, Executive Director, TechNet

***Please RSVP to [cjoiner@technet.org](mailto:cjoiner@technet.org)  
by Wednesday, October 21***