

July 6, 2012

## Computer Science Professor Honored with NCWIT Undergraduate Faculty Mentoring Award



Professor [Diana Franklin](#) of the UCSB Computer Science Department was honored by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) with an [Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award](#). Dr. Franklin is one of only four recipients in the U.S. to win this award, which this year presents its inaugural group of honorees.

Franklin was recognized for her efforts to encourage and advance the undergraduate students with whom she has conducted research. Franklin initially worked with juniors and seniors, and later included freshmen and sophomores, developing a retention pipeline of students from their freshman year. She has mentored 18 students, of which 60% have continued to graduate school, all in CS and IT.

"Working with undergraduates is very rewarding," said Franklin. "The work is very different from what they are used to, so it interesting to see how each student approaches the challenges of open-ended problems with no "right" answer."

Under her mentorship, undergraduate researchers have modeled an embedded processor for a parallel system,

analyzed the utility of reused cell phones as educational tools, designed an alarm triggered when scuba diving partners become too far apart, and developed curriculum for teaching middle school students Scratch programming through engaging projects.

[Learn more about Professor Franklin's research.](#)

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## Images

