CSTA Announces First Ever Administrator Impact Award

For Immediate Release

New York, NY – June 17, 2014 – Today, the Computer Science Teachers’ Association (CSTA), in partnership with Code.org, announced that the inaugural Administrator Impact Award winner is Dr. Todd Ullah, from Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Ullah is the Administrator of Instruction for the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support supporting STEM and Computer Science education.

The Administrator Impact Award recognizes an administrator who has made an outstanding contribution in K-12 computer science. Educators from across the country submitted nominations for administrators who have improved student access to higher quality computer science education. The CSTA Volunteer Awards Committee unanimously selected Ullah. The nominations were evaluated on the basis of how the administrator influenced or improved K-12 computer science education, the scope and the impact of the nominee’s contribution, and the extent to which they have demonstrated outstanding educator and leadership qualities.

Ullah, a long time administrator in LAUSD, was noted as the “leading advocate within LAUSD for bringing rigorous, college-preparatory, computer science into the schools” by Dr. Joanna Goode from the University of Oregon. Most recently, Todd took the lead on the LAUSD Computer Science Education Week efforts, which resulted in nearly 200,000 students participating in the Hour of Code writing more than 5 million lines of code (the second highest district participation of schools nationally).

According to CSTA Chair, Deborah Seehorn, Ullah provides an excellent example of the important role that administrators can play in supporting and improving computer science education in K-12.

“A visionary and supportive administrator is crucial in furthering computer science education and broadening access to quality computer science education for all students,” said CSTA Chair Deborah Seehorn. “Dr. Ullah is such a role model and is undeniably an inspiration for all school administrators. It is most appropriate that he be the inaugural winner of the Administrator Impact Award and set the bar for other school administrators.”

“Access to computer science can transform a student’s future,” said Code.org COO Cameron Wilson. “Dr. Ullah really understands that and has been a key leader in bringing this subject area to Los Angeles’ students. We need more leaders like Todd in our school systems.”
Ullah is honored to be the inaugural recipient of the Administrator Impact Award. Ullah said, “It is really significant that CSTA and Code.org are acknowledging how important critical and continuous collaboration with my colleagues has been in shaping and creating equity, access, and emancipatory educational experiences for the youth of Los Angeles and indeed around the nation as they relate to the world of computer science.”

Ullah will be officially presented with the Administrator Impact Award at the 2014 CSTA Conference. The conference will be held July 14-15 in St. Charles, IL. For more information about the CSTA Conference, visit http://www.csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSTAConference.html.

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About The Computer Science Teachers Association
The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) is a membership organization that supports and promotes the teaching of computer science and other computing disciplines. CSTA provides opportunities for K–12 teachers and students to better understand the computing disciplines and to more successfully prepare themselves to teach and learn.

About Code.org
Code.org® is a non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science by making it available in more schools, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. The vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer programming. Code.org believes computer science should be part of the core curriculum in education, alongside other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses, such as biology, physics, chemistry and algebra.