Name of Society/Organization: The Coalition to Diversify Computing (CDC)

URL: http://www.cdc-computing.org

What is the mission of your organization?

The CDC seeks to address the shortfall of underrepresented minorities in computing through the development of a diverse community of professionals that can effectively meet the computing demands of an evolving society. CDC projects target students and faculty with the expressed intent of increasing the number of minorities successfully transitioning into computing-based careers in academia, government laboratories and industry. Additional projects seek to increase the available pool of faculty members through partnerships and mentoring. Current emphasis is placed on the following three areas:

1. Recruitment of minority undergraduates to MS/PhD. programs
2. Retention of minority graduate students enrolled in MS/PhD. programs
3. Transition of minority MS/PhD. graduates into academia and industry

What is the membership of your organization?

CDC membership is comprised of individuals from academic, government laboratories, and industry.

How does your organization influence computing education?

The CDC influences computing education through mentoring of junior faculty as well as graduate students.

What do you see as the most significant three challenges facing computing education?

1. Declining enrollments
2. Diversity: computing has made less progress than disciplines such as engineering and biology.
3. Social relevance: computing has tremendous potential for helping the lives of disadvantaged communities and individuals, but its research and teaching agenda are largely determined by industrial and military needs.

What are the top three things that should be done to improve computing education?

1. Upstream social concerns. Computer science will become more diverse if it is more socially relevant to a broader spectrum of communities and individuals.
2. Examine the culture of computer science departments.

If all the groups coming to this meeting got behind a common goal or strategy, what would you suggest that it would be? Increasing enrollment in computing

Could you please provide names and short bios of the representative from your organization?

Dr. Pamela Williams is a Research Fellow at LMI. She is chair of the Coalition to Diversify Computing and President of the INFORMS Minority Issues Forum.
Dr. Ron Eglash is an Associate Professor at RPI. He is the chair-elect of the Coalition to Diversify Computing.

Dr. Bryant York is a Professor at Portland State University. He is a former chair of the CDC and former member of the CRA Board.