

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE SERVICE COURSE

PANEL DISCUSSION

Carol A. Hall
Assistant Professor, Computer Science
Louisiana State University Shreveport

H. Willis Means
Assistant Professor, Computer Information Systems
Amarillo College
(Moderator)

Robert R. Sloger
Instructor, Computer Information Systems
Amarillo College

Donnell Payne
Texas Christian University

The service course is changing. The traditional approach is being scrutinized, criticized, and modified due to changes in secondary and elementary curricula, better preparation of students entering post-secondary education, and a need to incorporate other disciplines.

The panel will look at distinctive ways the service course is being taught, unique approaches determined by student population, and reasons for changes. A demonstration of an inter-disciplinary approach, being used at Louisiana State University Shreveport, incorporating the techniques of Geographic Information Systems will be given. Modifications to the service course's content due to the unique needs of a student population will be described. Changes in basic curriculum due to student preparation and interest will also be addressed. Finally, the future of the service course will be discussed.

Students enrolling in the service course today are different from those enrolled five years ago and are not anything like those enrolled ten years ago. It is incumbent upon us to examine the way we teach the service course, its content, and philosophy if we are to meet the needs of our students.