Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for choosing to join us at this year's Advanced Placement Teacher Training Institute at the University of Iowa's Belin Blank Center.

We will have the use of a computing laboratory for our Computer Science A workshop. Just the same, you might wish to bring your own computer. All of the software that I will recommend to you is available at no cost and so you will have the option of downloading and installing it on your own computer. I will post exercises and examples on the Web. You will be able to copy them to your own computer during or after our workshop.

I will invite you and the other teachers to show us books and software that you are using in your courses. Of course, I will show you several textbooks and integrated development environments myself.

We will write programs together. We will develop exercises that invite our students to exercise their creativity. We will share questions that we can use to guide discussions in our classrooms and to evaluate our students' success in achieving learning goals. We will look at methods and tools that your students can use to present their projects to you and to their classmates. I believe that collaboration in the laboratory and experience presenting work to peers are great ways for our students to learn.

Our discussions and practice will cover the Elevens, Magpie Chatbot, and Picture laboratories that the College Board has given us. We will take a look at the new Computer Science Principles course and talk about how we might connect that course to the Computer Science A course.

A little about me: I have been a professor of computer science at Cornell College for 27 years. I have read (scored) the Advanced Placement examination every June since 1998. I have been leading day-long workshops and week-long summer institutes for AP teachers for almost as long. I helped compose the guidelines for writers of AP syllabi. I review the syllabi that teachers submit to the College Board as part of the AP Course Audit.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with you.

Leon Tabak
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