

# LEARNING CIRCLES

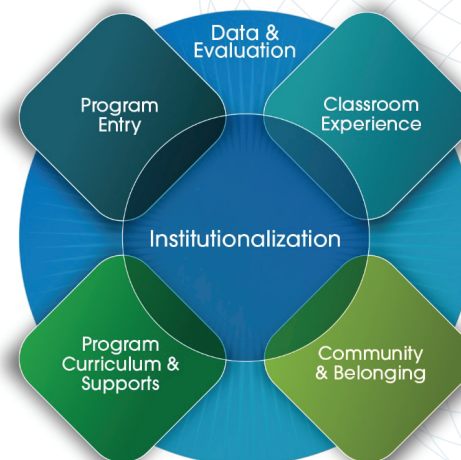
NCWIT Higher Ed Learning Circles are an opportunity to learn, share, and build community with like-minded colleagues interested in broadening participation in undergraduate computing programs.

**During Semester 1**, Learning Circle participants meet in small groups to learn about strategic planning and the interrelated focus areas of the NCWIT Undergraduate System Model. In addition, participants explore NCWIT's Tech Inclusion Journey™ for Undergraduate Programs (TIJ-UP), an online tool that enables a department to assess the practices in their computing program, guides team discussions, connects the team to relevant broadening participation resources, and provides the basis for strategic planning. LC participants can also submit departmental data on program entry and student outcomes to NCWIT's Tracking Tool to receive data visualizations to identify key patterns and trends.

**During Semester 2**, Learning Circle participants lead a local team at their home institution through the TIJ-UP, relevant program data, and discussions. The Tech Inclusion Journey™ culminates with the completion of a 2-5 page actionable strategic plan, tailored specifically to their program's context and challenges.

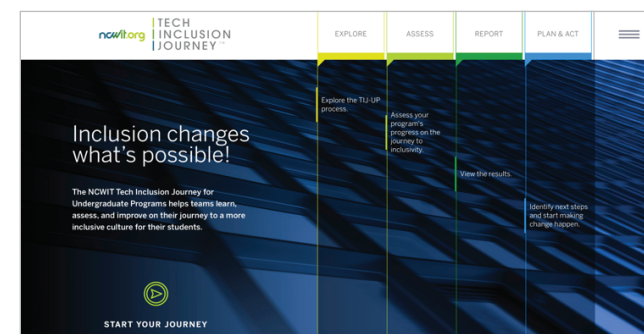
*“It's a reflective exercise. This gives us a framework to do an effective dive into the things we want to improve.”*

— 2023-2024 Learning Circle Participant



## Tech Inclusion Journey

The TIJ-UP is centered around the NCWIT Undergraduate System Model, a research-based framework with six interrelated focus areas for developing and maintaining sustainable, systemic change in undergraduate computing programs.



The NCWIT TIJ-UP is an online tool that leads a team through the strategic planning process from start to finish. Change teams explore the TIJ-UP process, assess their program along the six interrelated focus areas of the NCWIT Undergraduate System Model, view and discuss results, and then plan and act by identifying the critical areas of focus for their program's context utilizing the strategic planning template.

# LEARNING CIRCLES FAQs

## What are the participant roles?

**Learning Circle Participants** are individuals serving as the “Team Lead” who will attend the online Learning Circle meetings and lead a designated broadening participation in computing team at their institution (e.g. planning, scheduling, and facilitating their local team meetings). Only one participant from each institution attends the Learning Circle meetings.

**Local Team Members** are three to eight people from your institution representing a variety of roles and perspectives, including faculty (e.g., teaching, tenure-line) and staff (e.g., advisors, admissions staff). Local Team Members should support the Team Lead by assisting in tasks throughout the strategic planning process because broadening participation is a team effort and not the work of one person.

## What's the time commitment?

**Learning Circle Participants** attend several one-hour collaborative synchronous, community building meetings and complete a few asynchronous content sessions during Semester 1. During Semester 2, they shift into the Team Lead role by facilitating TIJ-UP discussions and strategic planning sessions on their campus (approximately nine-twelve hours).

**Local Team Members** take a few asynchronous modules, complete the TIJ-UP, review program data, and participate in approximately nine weekly one-hour meetings (alternative configurations include a full day retreat or two half-day retreats) to discuss the findings from the six interrelated focus areas of the NCWIT Undergraduate System Model and co-develop a strategic plan.

## What are the benefits of participating in Learning Circles?

Learning Circles help you evaluate and update your undergraduate computing program through a systemic change lens to ensure success for all students. Through free training sessions, you will learn from and network with colleagues. In addition, you'll be provided with proprietary tools to help bring your colleagues on board for strategic planning and to track your department's progress year after year. You will also have access to NCWIT social scientists that walk you through a template for a 2-5 page strategic plan.

**For more information, contact [highered@ncwit.org](mailto:highered@ncwit.org).**