What Leads Students to Study IS?

Research-in-Progress

Jeffrey W. Merhout
Miami University
jmerhout@MiamiOh.edu

T. M. Rajkumar
Miami University
rajkumtm@MiamiOh.edu

John "Skip" Benamati
Miami University
benamajh@MiamiOh.edu

Abstract

The demand for information technology talent in the United States far exceeds supply, and this shortage of qualified information technology (IT) workers in the U.S. is well documented. Moreover, the educational pipeline of information systems and computer science students in colleges and universities has decreased and certainly has not kept up with the demand. At the same time, the proportion of females and other underrepresented students studying in computing related fields and entering the profession remains low and is actually declining. This poster session reports on a study that surveyed students about their attitudes and perceptions of IS constructs that the literature purports to be key determinants of whether a student chooses to major in IS and thus make themselves eligible for an entry level IT position. We plan to use the information we develop to drive programmatic interventions rather than just making assumptions that might actually lead us astray.

Keywords

IT workforce, Gender in IT, IS majors, Stereotypes, Attitudes about IS careers, Image of IS professionals.