1. Title of the presentation

B/CS Diversity Open Data BuildDay: Lessons Learned

2. Author name(s), affiliation, and contact information

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3. Abstract

The poster will showcase a second iteration of an emerging practice: ‘Hackathon’ applied for student engagement with the concept of diversity. ‘Hackathon’ comes from Hack & Marathon - an intensive, output driven, collaborative event.

The B/CS Diversity Open Data BuildDay 2016 built on the successes and mistakes of our 2014 Hackathon event. The scope of the outreach event was expanded to stimulate conversation and increase the understanding of diversity in the Bryan - College Station area. The College of Architecture Diversity Council formed a partnership with the Center for the Study of Digital Libraries to hold a 24 hour ‘lock-in’ ideas competition to visualize and resolve ‘diversity’ issues as presented by six community representatives including both cities and civic groups.

The event focused on engaging participants in discussions about issues that the local Bryan / College Station minority communities and minority students face.

The event took place in the College of Architecture over the course of 24 hours in early February 2016. Over 90 participants from a variety of departments collaborated in interdisciplinary teams, supported by mentors. The event culminated with a series of 18 team presentations. So far 17 open-ended-question exit surveys have been returned and analyzed.

Lessons learned included:
- Exposure to other disciplines, mentors, environment was achieved
- Understanding of the concept of diversity improved for non-minority students
- Participant awareness about minority population in Bryan - College Station is limited
- Participant acknowledgement that Diversity improvement starts with visibility
- Participant positive response to interdisciplinary collaboration