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May the Java Course be with You

A bit of Star Wars movie magic and exploring the galaxy of computer programming and opportunities for underserved students to computing education awaits high school teachers at the third Java Engagement for Teacher Training workshop.

The Nov. 11-12 event is organized by the Indiana University School of Informatics' Department of Computer Science in coordination with the Association for Computing Machinery and the College Board.

The workshop, which will be held in IU's Lindley Hall, offers participants intensive study of Java programming and Java 3-D with an emphasis on problem-solving. Special sessions will cover topics such as programming on personal digital assistant devices, using weather to teach computer concepts and data modeling. Educators also will have sit-down sessions to share teaching strategies and discuss ways to attract young females and minorities into computing education and careers.

"Secondary school educators are a crucial link to future college students," says [Suzanne Menzel](#), lecturer in computer science and organizer of the event. "We hope participants come away with a new understanding of how to reach tomorrow's computing students, particularly those in underrepresented groups."

IU faculty and graduate students will lead sessions at the workshop, which also is sponsored by the Department of Information Systems, IU Office for Women's Affairs, Sun Microsystems and the Bloomington Bagel Co.

More starry-eyed participants also will have the chance to see behind-the-scenes footage from Star Wars: Episode 3 - Revenge of the Sith and other movies using the expertise of the [Industrial Light & Magic](#). Alex Sutter, a special effects creator who works in ILM's software and research development, will talk about shot development for Star Wars movies and last summer's War of the Worlds. The event, which is open to the public, gets under way at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 11 in room 102, Lindley Hall.

To register or learn more about the event, contact Menzel at menzel@indiana.edu or (812) 855-0778, or go to www.cs.indiana.edu/~jett/2005.