Code for Her: Developing Programming Skills in an Empowering Environment
Hello!

I am Carmen Cole

Sally W. Kalin Librarian for Learning Innovations
Information Sciences & Business Liaison Librarian
Penn State University Libraries
Background
Reshma Saujani
Keynote Speaker @ 2017 American Library Association Annual Conference
“You cannot be what you cannot see.”
Reshma Saujani
Furious Brainstorming Ensued…
My Questions:

- What’s already going on at Penn State?
- Who are my potential collaborators?
Rapid Response:

90 seconds per prompt:

✓ What do you do to support women and gender-diverse persons in tech?

✓ What initiatives are happening at your institution/in your hometown (or both) to support learning programming skills? Are any targeted specifically to women and/or gender-diverse persons?
Implementation
I DON’T KNOW HOW TO CODE. AT ALL.

SURPRISE!
Our Team

Carmen Cole: Code for Her Creator
University Libraries

Joslenne Peña: Code for Her Workshop Consultant
College of IST Doctoral Student

Kathyleen O’Leary: Code for Her Workshop Intern
College of IST Undergrad Student
Our Work

Spring 2018 Pilot

Fall 2018/Spring 2019
“I'm terrified of the men involved with programming; It's bad enough that I'm new to programming, but the fact that I'm a woman just makes me feel constantly undermined and looked down on by men who are adept at it. I'd feel much better learning to code from women in a room with no cis men than I would in any other situation.”
- Fall 2018 Workshop Participant
“An all female/gender-diverse environment seems to promote a sense of togetherness and judgement-free learning...especially related to coding which is often considered a STEM skill where women/girls/gender-diverse individuals are under-represented.”
- Fall 2018 Workshop Participant
Why the Library?
Rapid Response:

90 seconds per prompt:

✓ Think of at least ONE possible initiative you could create that provides ANY computing learning opportunity for women and gender-diverse persons.

✓ List as many collaborators as you can think of that could help launch/partner with you on your initiative.
Marketing Blitz

- Spring 2018 pilot vs. Fall 2018 workshop
- Physical flyers (library only)
- Library social media
- Digital signage
- Campus listservs

- Fall 2018 explosion...
Application Process:

- 221 total applications received for Fall 2018
- 25 spots for each section
- How do we screen for participant selection?
The Future
Improvements:

- Screening?
- Interactive “catch-up” materials
- Widening reach of Code for Her
Future Events:

- Large participant format
- Other skills?
- Sustainable?
Pics from Code for Her!

Fall 2018 Participants
Pics from Code for Her!

Fall 2018 Participant & Her WIP
Credits

- Reshma Saujani 2017 ALA Annual Keynote Address photo: Carmen Cole
- “Surprised Andy Dwyer” photo: https://www.dailybreak.com/break/andy-dwyers-greatest-moments-on-parks-and-recreation
- Pattee Library photo: Carmen Cole
- Code for Her Marketing: Nathan Valchar & Kathyleen O’Leary
- Presentation template: SlidesCarnival
- Stock photos: rawpixel.com, burst.com, & pexels.com
Thanks!

Questions?

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