

## **BCS announces new Academy of Computing**

*Cohesive approach to computing across education, research and business is required*

**21 September 2009: BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT, announced its intention to create a new Academy of Computing to create an integrated and coherent approach to advancing Computing across education, research and business.**

Dr. Bill Mitchell, BCS Director, Academy of Computing, who is spearheading the creation of the new Academy, comments: ‘ Computing has joined disciplines such as mathematics, physics and medicine as one of the UK’s foremost intellectual outputs. The subject is not only vibrant and growing, but more rigorous, more interdisciplinary, more experimental and more user-oriented than ever.’

‘Computing has a distinguished heritage, emerging from a rich variety of other disciplines. Consequently, the advancement of computing as an academic discipline needs a unifying forum to provide integration and coherence across education, research and business. The BCS is therefore establishing the BCS Academy of Computing in partnership with key stakeholders such as CPHC (Council of Professors and Heads of Computing) and UKCRC (UK Computing Research Committee).’

The BCS Academy of Computing will address how best to:

- Develop and support a cohesive community inclusive of scholars, researchers and professionals with a shared commitment to the advancement of computing
- Facilitate the scientific and engineering based application of computing knowledge within organisations to support transformational change
- Endeavour to ensure the relevance of computing knowledge throughout the education, business and research sectors

- Promote excellence in the creation, study and application of knowledge in Computing
- Engage with the public in order to facilitate a greater appreciation of the successes and challenges of computing, and facilitate informed debate about the roles computing should play in society at large.

David Clarke, BCS Chief Executive Officer, explains; 'Computing as a discipline is tremendously exciting and one of the outstanding achievements of our times. It underpins so many important areas that drive the success of our society. However, the challenges that lie ahead require all the stakeholders to work together within a unified community. We believe the new Academy of Computing will establish such a cohesive community that will actively promote an integrated, coherent approach to advancing the subject across education, research and business; ensuring the continued relevance and value of computing for society as a whole.'

Alongside this initiative, David Clarke set out a new vision and strategy for BCS as a whole, highlighting six critical IT issues which BCS believes face UK Society. These are:

1. The digital divide
2. Information vulnerability
3. Poor information management
4. 'IT project' failures
5. IT skills shortages
6. Lack of clear career paths for IT professionals

David Clarke said: 'It is our ability to process, share and manage information which will determine the success of our society and our ability to face up to future challenges – social, environmental and economic. We can only do this if we build an information-literate society. We need a high-performing IT education system, IT-literate policies, a respected and well-supported IT profession and a population with the skills and the opportunities to be active and informed citizens.'

BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, also unveiled a new strategy which will focus on five key objectives:

1. Bridging the gap between education, practice and research

2. Giving IT practitioners the professional development and career support they deserve
3. Informing public policy on how IT can contribute to society.
4. Ensuring everyone benefits from IT
5. Championing the global IT profession

He continued: 'As a natural leader of the IT profession as well as a charity with a remit to encourage public understanding and inform public policy, BCS can make a real difference against these objectives. For example, by introducing the latest version of CITP, by enhancing the relationship between education practice and research, and by showing leadership on key issues such as we have done in the Green IT space.'

**Ends**

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The British Computer Society (BCS) is the Chartered industry body for IT professionals, the Chartered Engineering Institution for Information Technology and a Chartered Science Institution. With our rapidly growing membership, BCS is playing an increasingly pivotal role in leading the development and implementation of world class standards for the IT profession through innovative products, services and support.

Through our specific "Professionalism in IT" programme, BCS is leading and building IT professionalism to levels which are currently only seen in more traditional long standing professions such as law, medicine, and accountancy but which will increasingly become the de facto standards for IT professionals.

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