HAVING IMPACT: RESEARCH / TEACHING / SERVICE

What is “impact”? Every institution is different.

• Publications in important venues?
• Grant funding?
• Curricular innovations?
• Service that makes a difference? As an agent for change?
• Visibility in your community? Nationally? Internationally?
• As a leader and an innovator? As a great collaborator?
HAVING IMPACT: RESEARCH / TEACHING / SERVICE

How does your institution judge impact?
Find out and channel your efforts into activities that have the biggest payoff – but make sure they make sense to you.

- Observe, ask questions, seek advice.
- Experiment and see what works.
- Find a mentor! (Could be at your own institution, outside but in your field, or knowledgeable and supportive but unrelated.)
HAVING IMPACT:
RESEARCH / TEACHING / SERVICE

• You’ve already had significant success: build on it.
• At same time, be open to interesting new collaborations.
• Be careful about sitting in the back seat too often, however. Make sure you get to drive the car sometimes.
• Interdisciplinary collaborations are great, but be careful. Everyone wants to work with computer scientists – we’re the heroes of the day (until we’re not).
HAVING IMPACT: RESEARCH / TEACHING / SERVICE

• Massive potential here as CS is a very dynamic field.
• At same time, serious pressures due to high enrollments.
• Demand for CS courses from many other majors.
• Students approach CS from a wide range of perspectives.
• Trying something new is easy, but make sure you understand time commitments and have institutional support.
• Remember, teaching is very much a team sport. What you do impacts the rest of your faculty colleagues and vice versa.
HAVING IMPACT:
RESEARCH / TEACHING / SERVICE

• Most institutions try to protect junior faculty from doing too much service. You may have a negative impression.
• But service is vitally important. This is something you should ramp up at an appropriate point in your career.
• Can be local (to institution) or broader (to profession).
• Involvement with CCC, CRA is good example of latter.
• E.g., visioning workshops, whitepapers, Congressional Visit Day, best practices, symposia (like this one).
• Activities to promote health and well-being of the field.
HAVING IMPACT: RESEARCH / TEACHING / SERVICE
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

• This deserves its own category.
• Serious problem in our field, both academia and industry.
• CS has become so important, we’re everywhere.
• With that role comes great responsibility.
• Cuts across and should inform everything we do.
• An “all-hands-on-deck” moment.
• Yes, you can have an impact!