Outline

Introductions
Success Story of Dean Kamen
The Wolcott Approach
Our Success Stories
Not many people know who invented the Segway, the futuristic-looking individual transportation vehicle, but now you do.

His name is Dean Kamen, and he is dyslexic.

Though the inventor focuses much of his time on math and science, Kamen has only read one novel in his adult life because he struggles with words on a page more so than equations and numbers.

"I read physics," Kamen said. "I read math. Everybody has to read those slow. And I'm not as dyslexic with numbers and equations."

Kamen struggled in school because of his learning disability, and didn't get good grades as a result.

"(I) disliked being told what to do by teachers, and challenged them over their teaching of the principles of math and physics," he said.

Despite difficulties in school, Kamen excelled in his creativity at an early age. His parents noticed how he liked to come up with new ways to do things, and this creativity translated into a career in inventions. Kamen designed a syringe that gave accurate doses of medicine, a portable dialysis machine, a low-cost water filter for developing countries, and the Segway.

Kamen has also earned awards for his inventions, including the National Medal of Technology in 2000 and the Lemelson-MIT Prize in 2002. He puts much of his time into FIRST, a national program with competitions for kids interested in math and science.
Wolcott School

Mission

Wolcott School is Chicago-land’s independent, nonprofit, college-prep high school for students with learning differences.

History

As the first and only school of its kind in Chicago-land, Wolcott opened its doors in August 2013 to an inaugural class of 33 freshmen and sophomores. The school facility, housed in the former Union League Club for Boys in Ukrainian Village, required over three years of planning and a $13.3 million fundraising campaign. Wolcott was founded with the support of over 300 original donors and with guidance from a Professional Advisory Council comprised of Chicago's leading experts in adolescent education and learning differences.
THE HIDDEN UNDERREPRESENTED GROUP:
Bringing AP Computer Science Principles to Students with Learning Differences

Study Goals

- Expand participation in the AP CS Principles course among students with learning differences.
- Generate knowledge in the CS education community about what is needed to include students with learning differences in CS.
- Develop specific guidance for CS curriculum developers and teachers about what is needed to make AP CSP accessible for students who learn differently.

Contact
Sarah Wille
Principal Investigator
swille@uchicago.edu
1) What learning challenges did you struggle with growing up?

2) How did participating in FIRST competition help you succeed?

3) What are you future goals and plans?

Student Panel
Victor
Kylie
Ben
Tyler
Ella
Diego