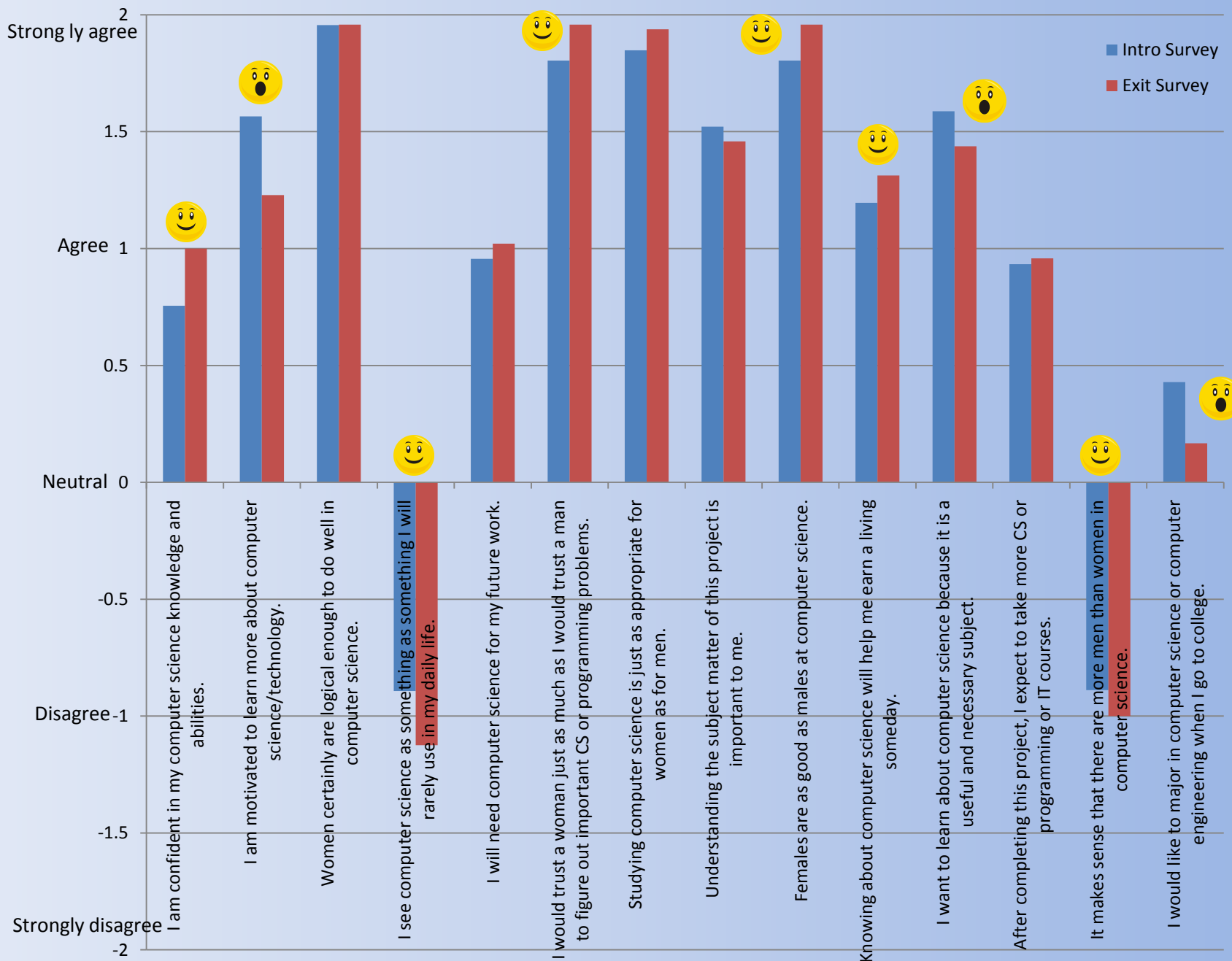


Survey Response Before and After the 2010-2011 GEM Project



The Girl Empowerment and Mentoring (GEM) for Computing Project 2010-11

- . 68 participants (80)
- . 15 schools
- . 13 teams
- . 8 mentors
- . 5 judges

2009-10 statistics

- . 26 participants (40)
- . 12 schools
- . 8 teams
- . 6 mentors
- . 5 judges

2008-09 statistics

- . 40 participants (80)
- . 12 teams
- . 12 mentors
- . 4 judges

E-mail: Leen-Kiat Soh,
lksoh@cse.unl.edu
<http://cse.unl.edu/gem>





Program Overview

The GEM Project aims to inspire middle and high school girls towards computing in post-secondary education by encouraging female middle and high school students to learn about IT and computing via three important activities:

1. working with a “Big Sister” at UNL who will mentor the participants,
2. working in a team with female students from other schools, and
3. investigating the use of IT and computing in real-world applications.

The contest allows students to learn from their mentors about life as a CS student at UNL, learn how to work as a team with peers, and learn how to investigate a technical topic and write cohesively and engagingly about their findings.

Essay topics are restricted to describing an application of their choice (e.g., CGI in movies) and the in-depth discussion of the CS paradigm(s) underlying the application. GEM mentors work with teams to help them choose an application, identify the CS paradigms, and facilitate the investigation. Essays are judged on a variety of criteria and winning teams are awarded prizes and scholarships.



NEW



Local School Visits

- Visited three middle schools this Spring 2011
- A 5-slide presentation on Computational Thinking
- A magic show based on NCWIT’s CS Unplugged’s Odd/Even Parity Activity
- A sorting game based on NCWIT’s CS Unplugged’s Sorting Network Activity
- Q&A session with mentors about life in CS and in college
- Logical puzzles (4 questions with prizes)
- Take home handouts on Image Analysis and Text Compression, based on CS Unplugged’s program-in-a-box



Shadow-A-Mentor Days

- 7 separate Shadow-A-Mentor Days
- A GEM participant visited campus and followed her mentors to class, and other locations such as the library, union, computer lab, and have lunch together



“What does a Computer Scientist Do?”

Word cloud on response from students *before* GEM contest



“What does a Computer Scientist Do?”

Word cloud on response from students *after* GEM contest

