

Building Cohort Community in a Virtual Classroom: Lessons Learned from the WAVES Workshop

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ALife Edu West

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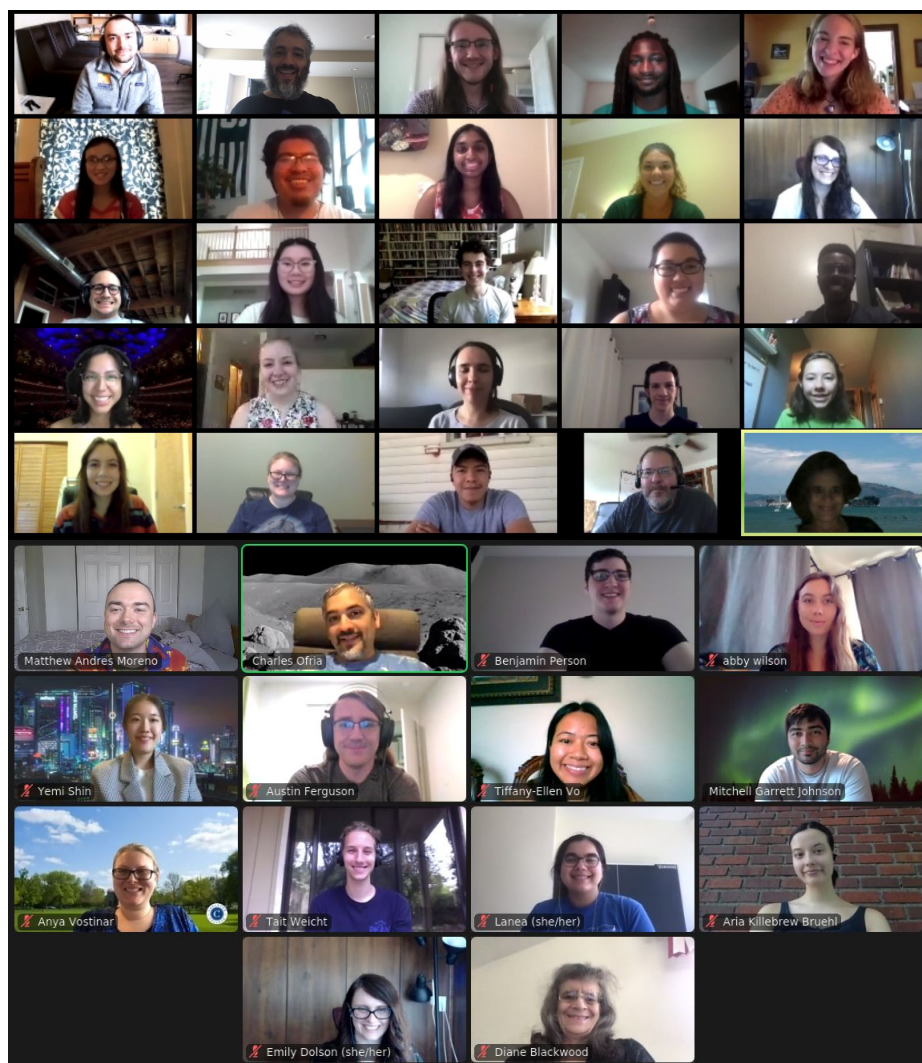
hopth.ru/go



Workshop for Avida-ED Software Development

Workshop for AVida-Ed Software Development

- came together abruptly in spring 2020 due to sudden need for fully-virtual research experiences
- *how can we provide a supportive, engaging cohort atmosphere without in-person events?*



WAVES Goals

1. to help **participants advance their careers by skillbuilding** through hands-on C++ and/or JavaScript software development in an academic setting,
2. to catalyze effective **science communication and science pedagogy** by helping **participants develop the know-how to showcase their research** through interactive web applications,
3. to jumpstart **software development** on web framework and core digital evolution tools in support of the **next version of the Avida-ED** scientific and educational software, and
4. to produce **software that broadly enriches** the digital evolution, scientific, education, and open-source communities.

Idea 1: “after-hours” drop-in event



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Idea 2: Co-opt Our Weekly All-hands Meeting

MONTHLY PLANNER

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				★		
				★		
				★		
				★		
				★		

Agenda:

- “*warmup*”
 - (~10 min)
- town hall
- professional development seminar

Wikipedia Races

Barack Obama



Official portrait, 2012

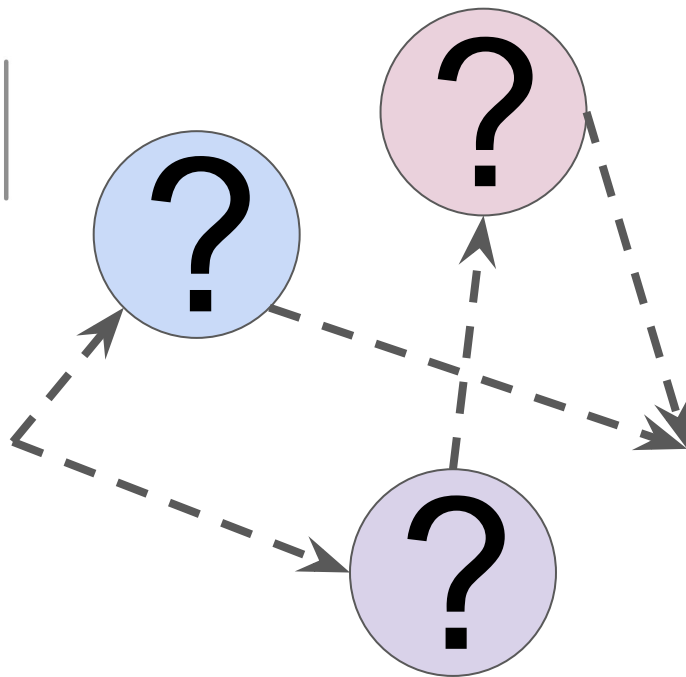
44th **President of the United States**

In office

January 20, 2009 – January 20, 2017

Vice President

Joe Biden



SpaghettiOs

SPAGHETTIO's

Logo since 1995



Opened can of SpaghettiOs

Product type [Canned pasta](#)

Owner [Campbell's](#)

Country United States

Introduced 1965; 61 years ago

Website campbells.com/spaghettios

Geoguessr



McMansion Realtor



credit: Kate Wagner /
McMansion Hell

Scattergories



Building Virtual Community is Hard!

- e.g., workshop slack
 - **success:** #pets-and-plants 🐶🌱
 - **challenge:** peer-to-peer connections
- ... and therefore success requires planning and intent

Acknowledgement

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Workshop for Avida-ED Software Development

mmore500.com/waves

WAVES Participants

2020

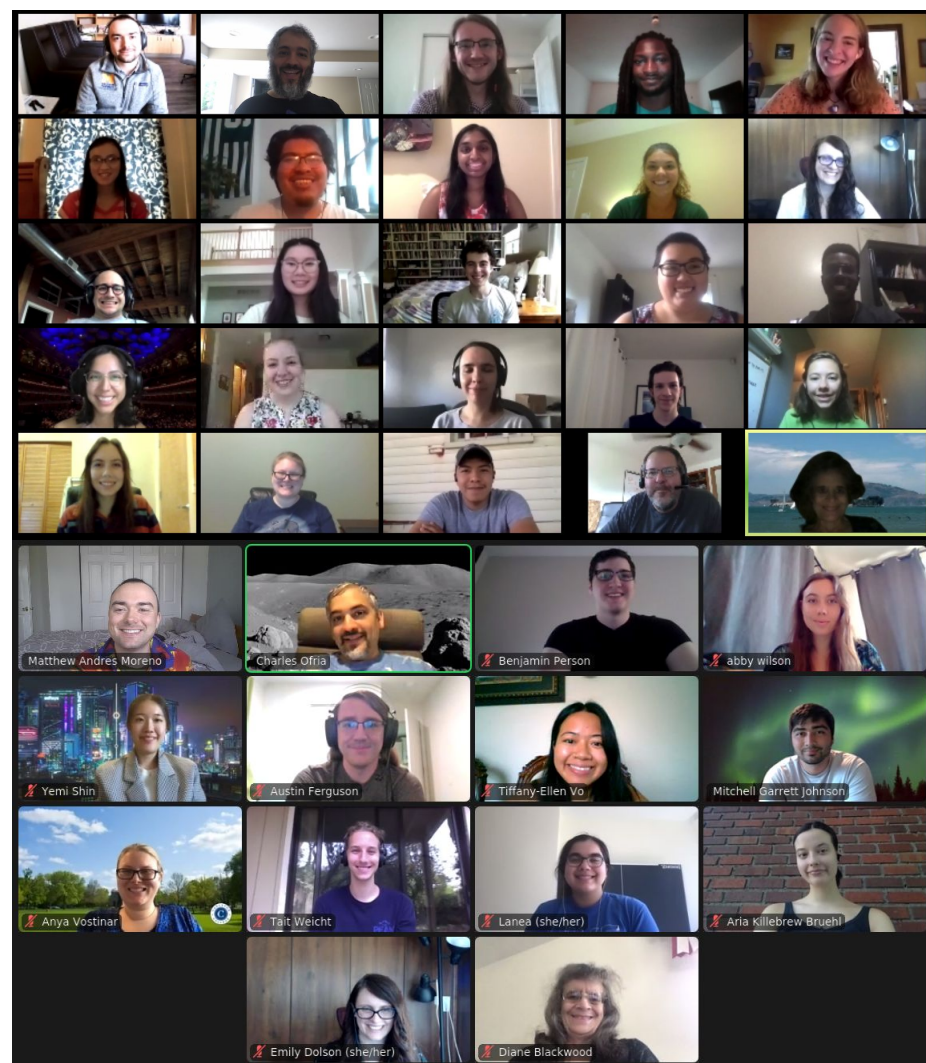
- 92 applicants
- 17 participants
- 10 identified as female (59%)
- 2 identified as first-generation (12%)

2021

- 24 applicants
- 10 participants
- 5 identified as female (50%)

What is WAVES?

- **W**orkshop for **A**Vida-**E**d **S**oftware Development
- ten-week, full-time software development experience
- early-career participants
- matches participants with mentors working on software for digital evolution and public-facing science outreach
- onboarding lessons & weekly professional enrichment



People: DEVOLAB & Collaborators

