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**Education Theory and Practice**

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**CAP: CSCL 2015 Doctoral Consortium and Early Career Workshop**

This proposal is for conducting a Doctoral Consortium and Early Career Workshop at the annual meeting of the International Society of the Learning Sciences, which in 2015 is the Computer Supported Collaborative Learning Conference, to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The Learning Sciences is an interdisciplinary field that draws on multiple theoretical perspectives and research paradigms, with the goal of advancing knowledge and the application of knowledge about human learning and development in formal and informal educational settings. Researchers in the learning sciences attempt to understand the nature and conditions of learning, cognition, development, and related areas of human performance, and they investigate cognition in its material, social, and cultural contexts. The intention of learning science research is to develop evidence-based claims about how people learn that have theoretical, practical, and pedagogical implications.

Capacity building is a central concern within the Learning Sciences community. In difficult financial times, nurturing the research and career choices of the next generation of researchers becomes especially important. The International Society for the Learning Sciences has historically addressed these needs, in part, through specialized workshops held in conjunction with the Society's two major conferences. The Doctoral Consortium workshops host PhD students who are grappling with their dissertation research, while the Early Career workshops are designed for recent PhDs (post-docs, faculty in early tenure track, and others) who are shaping career paths. Organizing the workshops in conjunction with the flagship conferences in the field gives the workshop participants further access to new research, other researchers in the field and prospective employers, and revitalizes the community with fresh faces and ideas.

Intellectual merit and broader impact: This workshop will help advance knowledge through the exchange of ideas and mentoring, relative to the new capacities required of learning sciences researchers. As part of the exchange of the workshop, researchers will explore innovative ideas about how to analyze learning interactions and outcomes in formal and informal educational practices, develop compelling evidence-based arguments in design-based and other forms of learning research, and foster research-

practice partnerships. The workshop organization builds on a successful model documented in past evaluations but extends this focus with a targeted focus on these new ideas and with opportunities to interact with international researchers and practitioners. The team includes leading learning scientists whose own career trajectories make them both empathetic to the challenges of young scholars and good role models for them. This workshop will enhance the capacity of the learning sciences as a field; to address important challenges associated with the transformation of education and broadening participation in the digital age.