Fostering Computer Science and AI Learning through Youth-Led Conversational App Development Experiences

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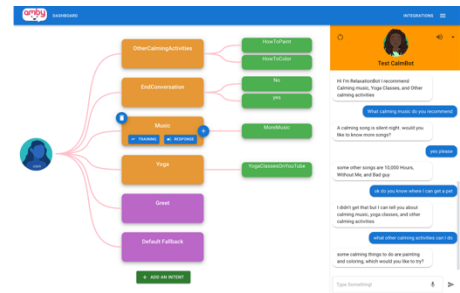
Project type: Developing and Testing Innovations (DTI)

Project URL: http://www.campdialogs.org

Project Overview: Camp DIALOGS is providing technology-rich learning opportunities for middle school students to **design and develop spoken conversational apps** using computer science and artificial intelligence over the course of two-week summer camps.

Camp Dialogs increases middle schoolers' **AI understanding, ability beliefs, and career awareness** through personally relevant, engaging interactions with **conversational AI**.

Lessons Learned & Insights Gained

- *Novel interface for youth to create conversational AI*
- *New informal AI curriculum for middle school youth*
- *Close alignment among novel curriculum, interface, and 5 AI Big Ideas (AI4K12.org)*
- *Importance of near-peer camp facilitators as mentors and camp leader*

Equity

- *Kids with no prior CS or AI Experience can thrive in building conversational apps and develop a STEM identity*
- *Crucial to deeply engage the target community*
- *Camp available at low or no cost to families*

Challenge	Next Steps
Developing an informal curriculum that suits a broad range of learners' interests and abilities	Augmenting the youth-facing interface and accompanying lessons to support a broad range of project complexity
Intentional recruiting within the intended high-need learner population	Deep engagement with a community liaison
Data collection fatigue by camp participants	Shift to performance-based assessments embedded within the camper experience