Project Website

- We have a website at http://pltlcs.org
- It is under development and we welcome suggestions and feedback
- Note: http://pltl.org is a valuable site but is by another group
Project Website Content

- Our activities including content of workshops presented
  - Materials from this workshop up shortly
- A repository of CS PLTL activities
  - It is searchable
  - We welcome contributions from others
Website Content - Coming

- Wiki/listserv
- Links to useful sites
- Starting & maintaining a program
- Peer leader training
- Benefits for peer leaders and participants
- (possibly) video of sample sessions
Website Input

- Are there suggestions you have?
- Would you like to see some content sooner than other content?
Programs At Different Schools

- Each school will give a brief overview of its program
- This should give an idea of the different efforts and adaptations to local environment
Beloit College

- 1250 students: residential, liberal arts
- CS dept. has around 10 majors (before program)
- Only used PLTL in Intro. to Programming class
  - Has 15-30 students
    - Beloit Experience in Computer Science (BECS)
Overview

- First year recruiting went well and helped build program
- Second year hard and flipped all to PLTL
- Seen increases in total enrollment, women, and continuing students
PLTL First Year

- Sent letters to 68 students to get 7 in BECS program
  - Targeted women, minority & TRIO in top 25% of incoming class by HS GPA and Math SAT/ACT
- BECS participants 25% of whole class
- Students enjoyed but none went on in CS
  - They were strong advocates for the program
  - They were the future peer leaders
BECS Program

- Met about once per week for two hours
- Voluntary but must come if in program
- No extra academic credit
- Participants wanted enrichment activities and not coursework
- Students viewed very favorably
Year Two

- For fall sent 79 letters to get two participants in BECS
  - For groups that wanted more students (TRIO & minority) removed SAT/ACT & reduced GPA
- In spring resent letters & recruited from class to only get one participant so dropped BECS for semester
Year Two Continued

- In spring, split class in half
  - One group had 2 hour PLTL session
  - Other group had 2 hour lab with me & TA
- PLTL impact mixed but somewhat encouraging
  - Plan to continue PLTL this fall with whole class
Other Factors

- I redesigned the intro course
  - Studio format with hands-on laptop use
  - Alice
  - Paired programming
  - Open-ended assignments
  - Examples aimed at diverse students
Tentative Results

- Keep in mind this is for one year (this year) and small numbers of students.
- We have seen:
  - Increases in enrollment in the intro course.
  - Large increase in the number of students continuing in CS.
  - Large increases in the percent of women.
  - Increases in minorities (but numbers small so hard to gauge yet).