Community Perspective Discussion
Attracting New Contributors - 1

• How important is it to attract new contributors?
  – What is the motivation for attracting newbies?
  – What is the motivation for attracting students?
  – What percentage of effort is spent on attracting newbies?
  – What is the impact on project future?
Attracting New Contributors - 2

• How do projects attract new contributors?
  – What is it about a project that draws new users?
    • Domain? Technology? Community?
    • Does this differ for students?
  – What techniques have been successful for drawing new contributors?
  – What challenges do you face in attracting new contributors?
Onramps

• What are the onramps for your project?
  – Have you developed learning activities or resources to help in on-ramp?
    • Might be as simple as tour of project pointing out areas for contribution.

  – What would be useful as an onramp?
    • Something students could build? Bootstrapping participation?
Retaining Contributors

• How do projects retain contributors?
  – What techniques have been successful for retaining contributors?
    • Would these need modification for students?
  – How do you guide contributors towards increasing value to the project?
    • How successful have you been with this?
Skills/Knowledge Required - 1

• What skills/knowledge should a potential contributor have?
  – Where do you suggest newbies start?
  – What role do you hope that new contributors play in your project?
• What is the minimum set of knowledge/skills contributors need to get started?
  • Could be technical or soft skills.
  – What kinds of contributions work best for new contributors?
Skills/Knowledge Required - 2

• What kinds of contributions are most likely to be accepted by the project?
  – What more advanced knowledge is valuable?
    • Role of domain knowledge? Professional skills?
  – How do you convey the need for more advanced knowledge? How do you “grow” newbies?
  – What are the biggest learning curves for newbies?
  – Do you use different approaches/techniques for newbies versus people with experience?
    • What are the differences?
Advice for Instructors

• What advice would you give instructors on how to approach and work with a community?
  – What should instructors do to ensure interactions with students are a positive for the community?
  – What is the right way for instructors to approach a project in order to ensure successful interactions?
  – What should instructors do to ensure successful interactions over time?
  – How can instructors give back to the community?
Wrap-Up

• How can foss2serve bridge the gap between education and HFOSS projects?
  • How can we make student participation work better for all concerned?

• What else? What other aspects have we not considered?