

## SECM 2017 Position

**Premise:** Millennials have a distinctly pragmatic focus; they strongly prefer tech over fundamentals; many struggle with high-level reasoning (abstraction, modeling), critical thinking, collaboration (surprisingly!), and effective communication

**Question:** How should SE educators balance between giving students what they want and what they need?

**Tactics:** repeatedly apply abstract concepts in different contexts, cast them in the language of new tech, encourage frequent reflection, trace failures and pain points to abstract concepts, insist on modeling and design skills, make soft skills a prerequisite for success with opportunities to develop them, use active learning to encourage critical thinking

**Interests:** active learning, balancing theory with practice