

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TN CODE ACADEMY, LAUNCH TENNESSEE AND TENNESSEE STEM INNOVATION NETWORK ENCOURAGE CODING EVENTS ACROSS TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 2, 2013 – TN Code Academy, Launch Tennessee and the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (the TSIN) are encouraging and organizing events all across Tennessee to coincide with Code.org's "Hour of Code" event during the week of Dec. 9. The event is part of Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 9-15), and the goal is to get kids to think, create and have fun – all while learning some computer programming.

Ninety percent of American schools don't teach computer science. Fewer students are learning how computers work than a decade ago, but technology is increasingly shaping almost every aspect of how people live their lives. TN Code Academy and the TSIN's STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) hubs across the state are joining in on the largest education event in history in order to generate interest in the computer sciences.

"The Hour of Code is designed to demystify code, to show that computer science is not rocket-science, and anybody can learn the basics," said Hadi Partovi, founder and CEO of Code.org. "It's now on track to be the largest learning event in history, proving that the demand for relevant 21st century computer science education crosses all borders and knows no boundaries."

TN Code Academy, Launch Tennessee and the TSIN are encouraging schools across Tennessee to register. Those who register are eligible for a wide range of prizes. There are several events taking place across the state, and a list can be found at <http://csedweek.org/events>. Highlighting the week are several events in various STEM hubs across Tennessee:

Memphis: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 at the University of Memphis. The University of Memphis computer science department will hold a CS Open House that will include workshops on creating video games and programming Lego robots, interactive demonstrations of current Memphis research projects, talks on CS/IT careers and an introduction of basic programming. Contact kmalasri@memphis.edu to register.

Chattanooga: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Chattanooga Public Library. The event will be for middle school students and parents. At this event, students will interface in small group discussions with professionals in different

computer science occupations, have lunch and then conduct their hour of code time on either their own laptop or a Chromebook provided by Engage3D.

Knoxville: 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Min Kao Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (1520 Middle Drive). The School of Engineering will host an Open House event where students can get a brief overview of computer programming, as well as interact with UT computer science students. The event is for middle school students and parents.

For more information, please contact Sammy Lowdermilk of TN Code Academy at 931-379-1039, or Sammy@tncodeacademy.com.

About TN Code Academy

TN Code Academy is a program of The Biz Foundry, a Launch Tennessee business accelerator. The program's overall goal is to build a talent pool of coders and programmers, not only in the Upper Cumberland region, but also throughout Tennessee. Additional information about these programs can be found at <http://tncodeacademy.com>.

About the TSIN

The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) is a unique public-private collaboration between the Tennessee Department of Education and Battelle Memorial Institute designed to promote and expand the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in K-12 public schools across Tennessee.

The TSIN comprises six Regional STEM Innovation Hubs and six STEM Platform Schools. The schools are designed to encourage local educational innovation by investigating and creating new STEM teaching and learning best practices to be shared throughout the state, all while providing their students with the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century workplace. In addition to supporting the platform schools, the hubs are the nucleus of regional STEM activity, representing a formal partnership among school districts, post-secondary institutions, STEM businesses, and community organizations.

About Launch Tennessee

Launch Tennessee is a public-private partnership focused on supporting the development of high-growth companies in the state of Tennessee with the ultimate goal of fostering job creation and economic growth. Launch Tennessee focuses on four key areas: entrepreneurship, commercialization, capital and outreach. Launch Tennessee is in part funded by a grant from the State of Tennessee. Please friend Launch Tennessee on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/LaunchTN), Twitter (www.Twitter.com/LaunchTN), YouTube (www.YouTube.com/LaunchTN) and Flickr (www.Flickr.com/LaunchTN).