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The Hour of Code: Jackson Area Career Center Programming class to participate in global technology training initiative

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Jackson, Mich. – During the week of December 9, 40 students from the Jackson Area Career Center (JACC) Programming class will honor Computer Science Education Week through participation in an exciting, world-wide effort: The Hour of Code. As part of the event, several of the JACC students will also visit several Jackson County schools to support fellow area students in learning the basics of computer programming and coding.

The Hour of Code is executed through a variety of one-hour introductions and tutorials in computer science, each of which allows anyone to learn the basics of code regardless of grade level or subject matter.

In the days before and throughout the week, instructor Stephen Keinath and students from his course will be on hand to support teachers in all areas of preparation and participation in the Hour of Code.

"My students and I will help local schools and teachers with Hour of Code by either pre-planning—figuring out what lessons are best for students at their level—and also on the day of, by sending my students out into the schools to answer any questions that the kids or the teachers might have," says Keinath of the contribution his students plan to provide.

While often viewed as complex or out of reach, one JACC student explains that anyone can begin to learn coding, "you don't need to be a genius to learn the basics of coding...it's really just looking at the simplest way the computer functions."

Computer coding—used as a building block to create computer software, apps, and websites—is a highly valued skill in today's workforce. The Hour of Code will create greater exposure and understanding of Computer Science as a foundation for learning, and also opens the doors for new fields of study for Jackson area students.

"It teaches kids to think," says Keinath, supporting the benefits of coding beyond marketability, "learning to code allows students to tap into alternative methods of thinking and learning, including computational thinking and algorithmic thinking."

For more information, visit http://csedweek.org/events or http://edtech.jcisd.org.

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