

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1st, 2021

**COUNCIL OF DIGITAL ENGINEERS (CODE):
EXPANDING COMPUTER SCIENCE CREATIVITY & INNOVATION**

Brooklyn, NY — CODE was founded on the principles of sparking curiosity within the computer science field in Brooklyn Technical High School but has now expanded to the doors of students, of all backgrounds, around the New York City Metropolitan area. CODE is a student-led 501(c)(3) organization that strives for engaging individuals through the use of programming to encourage creative, out-of-the-box, thinking as well as team collaboration and communication. With these unparalleled events of remote learning, many students isolate themselves and independently work. At CODE, we're addressing these issues at their roots as we aim to establish communities where students can share and build on each other, sharing a similar passion for programming.

On the week of March 14th-20th, CODE will be holding a virtual hackathon, CodeFest, for programmers all around the globe, with any level to compete for thousands of dollars in prizes. They'll have the ability to team up and work in teams of two-four on developing a project and prototype that aims to conquer a problem within our theme. The theme chosen for this event is Humanitarian Issues. This theme allows for an opportunity for participants to not only showcase their programming talents but raise awareness for important issues around the world. Throughout the week, multiple workshops, guest speakers, and interactive events will be streamlined. We, at CODE, decided to take a different approach to hackathons and decided CodeFest would consist of three different days. The first day being held on March 14th, second day on March 17th, and the final day on March 20th. All hackers will have the ability to work on their projects asynchronously, on Tuesday and Thursday.

During the first day, CODE would introduce the theme as well as the overall objective of CodeFest to its participants as well as give them time to interact with their newly formed teams and brainstorm on their project. Afterwards, CODE would also host a virtual workshop led by EchoAr that informs all attendees on their respective platform. In addition, participants would have the opportunity to collaborate on their project and start programming, marking the first day of our hackathon. Lastly, we will hold a game night to further interact with our participants, leading them into day two. All hackers will regroup on the second day, which will consist of multiple guest speakers on topics such as AI and Web development and multiple workshops following these guest speakers to reinforce these important topics with our participants. To kickoff our second day, we have invited the Director of Partnerships at Encode Justice, MacKenzie Fisher to talk about her personal experience in the tech industry and AI ethics. For our AI workshop following, we've invited Encode Justice to explain the dangers of AI ethics.

Afterwards, we have brought in Chris Sean, web developer and YouTuber with over 80k subscribers, to talk about his life and how to get started in the web development side of the industry. This will be followed by a web development workshop hosted by {PUT HERE}.

During the third day, there would be an informational and interactive guest speaker about Game Development as well as a workshop to reinforce those ideas. Some final time would be given to the teams to add their finishing touches to their projects and then all the teams will be able to show off and present their projects to the judges and the participants. At CODE, we want to create an interactive environment where everyone can build off each other and this allows for the perfect chance to do just that. After the showcasing event, we would announce winners in our closing ceremony, thanking all for coming. We will also host a movie night to further create a sense of community amongst the members and the closing event as well as show appreciation for them attending.

At CODE, we believe that each person can become curious and change the world by strengthening their knowledge by attending our guest speaker events, hackathons, competitions, weekly virtual programs, and would essentially be a step in the right direction for them and the future of computer science as a whole. Since everyone is curious in their own right, through our work, we hope that we can revive the interest in programming and that their passion will drive them to excel as the future of computer science unfolds.

A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step, at CODE, with your help, we could be that first step. To learn more, visit our website techcodes.org

For further information about CODE, please contact:

Priyam Shah,
Public Relations Coordinator
priyam@techcodes.org