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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ORGANIZE DETROIT'S LARGEST HACKATHON

Over 300 students to participate, more than $8000 in prizes

GrizzHacks, the largest collegiate hackathon in Detroit, returns for its fifth year in a row on Friday, Sept. 18th. Over 300 students from around the world are set to participate in the weekend-long competition, ready to collaborate and build innovative projects from scratch.

While the event is typically held in the Engineering Center on Oakland University's campus, the coronavirus pandemic prompted organizers to make this year's event completely virtual.

A hackathon is best described as an "invention marathon". Over the course of a weekend, participants will be able to collaborate with other students to build a software application or hardware project. There will be workshops to learn web development, iOS or Android mobile development, and more. Students will also be able to interact with engineers from sponsoring companies, network for a job or internship, and win more than $8000 in prizes.

"Because of the low-pressure and collaborative environment, hackathons like GrizzHacks can inspire attendees to pursue computer science and other STEM fields," said Shriyash Jalukar, an organizer of GrizzHacks. "Through the mentorship available over the whole weekend, attendees are able to work on ideas and projects they would otherwise never get a chance to tackle in classes."

"Projects can be anything related to software or hardware development," said Allison Broski, a senior computer science major and GrizzHacks 5 lead director. "In the past, we've had attendees build video games, create Android and iOS apps, hack a car and develop an ultrasonic harp."

GrizzHacks is a flagship event in Major League Hacking's (MLH) digital lineup this year, with sponsoring companies including Amazon Detroit, Quicken Loans, Ally Financial and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. The opening ceremony will be held from 7 p.m. on Friday, September 18th. Anyone who is a current student and has an interest in technology is welcome to sign up for the free event at http://grizzhacks.com.

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