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Dear Potential Mentor,

As a response to the current global pandemic, an exceeding number of school districts and university campuses are exploring virtual options for the following school year. As students and leaders within our community, the HackIllinois team has realized the need for new tools to be able to continue education during a time of crisis.

HackThis is a fully virtual, week-long hackathon experience taking place on August 7th - 15th, 2020. Throughout the week, our focus is to build an environment where students can develop solutions to enhance virtual learning on a global scale, while hearing from leaders in education, attending workshops, and having access to mentors from different backgrounds. We are presenting attendees with an opportunity to enact change within their larger student community, and the learning experience they will get will be unparalleled. With your support, attendees will be able to grow further, and we hope you will join us in helping them do so.

We would be honored to have your support in our mission to reimagine education for an increasingly virtual future as a mentor. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or are interested in being a part of this incentive.

Best,
The HackIllinois 2021 Family

Our Hackathon Focus: Advancing Virtual Education

Our Projects

Establishing Different Tracks for Different Students

- Start a new project from scratch
- Present a project that has developed in the past for the purpose of supporting education

Our Resources

Supporting Attendee Learning

- Workshops to expand and strengthen attendee abilities
- Mentors from industry, education, and business to facilitate growth of a large variety of projects

Our Experience

Enabling Holistic Student Growth

- Week-long event to enable user ready products and promote product longevity
- Panels to inspire and educate students
- Mini-events to build connections and encourage attendee interaction

HackIllinois presents HackThis 2020

this.hack == education

Help out as a mentor anytime during the week of August 7th through August 15th! Register to be a mentor at go.hackillinois.org/mentor-registration.

Mentor Tracks

As a mentor, you can provide support through either or both of the methods below.

Project Track

Partner with a specific project

- Throughout the week, provide assistance to a particular project in several ways, whether it be for ideation, technical help, or purely motivation!
- Closer to the event, you'll be able to pair yourself with a group you're interested in working with—or one that reaches out to you—through our mentor matching process.
- Interact with a single project and group members at a close level.

Queue Track

Provide assistance through a queue system

- Make yourself available as a mentor at any time during the week through our queue infrastructure, and students will be able to come to you to ask questions about their projects.
- Timings are flexible for when you would like to be helping attendees.
- Interact with a large variety of different projects!

Mentor Categories

There are several different mentor categories that were created specifically to help students get help where they need it.

Product Development (Technical)

- Beginner Help - Support beginners as they go about ideating and formulating their projects, as well as with skills such as git.
- Technical Help - Assist in various fields (including Data Sci, Web/Mobile Dev, Systems, Languages) to assist with translating ideas into code along with general technical help.
- Ed Tech - Help to ideate and develop projects that solve a real world issue.

Product Consultation (Non-Technical)

- Business - Formulate pitches and business development plans for products.
- Product Design - Guide students to develop an intuitive User Experience and Usability aspect for their product, through effective UI/UX techniques and industry standards for design.

Mentor Timeline

August 7th: Start of event and Mentor Matching to projects

August 7th - August 9th: Emphasis on learning and ideating projects *

August 10th - August 15th: Continued work on projects

* = We will need lots of help during the beginning of our event!