Kean University and Freehold 21st Century Community Learning Center introduce computer science principals to middle school students

By **Suburban News**
on July 21, 2015 at 4:43 PM, updated July 21, 2015 at 4:44 PM

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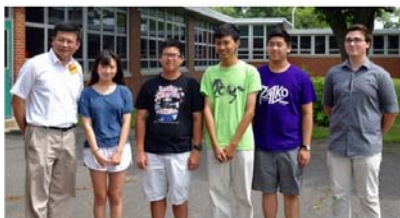
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More than 20 students will participate in the new multimedia curriculum and summer program designed to promote computer science education for middle school students in Freehold Township.

Freehold's 21st CCLC provides opportunities for academic, artistic, and cultural activities to students and their families during the summer months. The program is open to fourth-eighth graders. The Kean grant program is an off-shoot of a research paper by Kean University assistant Professors Ching-yu Huang, Jing-Chiou Liou, and Grace Huang, an undergraduate student in the University of Pennsylvania's Digital Media Design program.

"Kean University is contributing to greater diversity in the Computer Science field through teacher training, advising, community service, teaching, and research," said Dr. Huang. "By increasing awareness of careers in computer science and information technology and providing access to best practices and materials, Kean faculty have increased the number of teachers and students studying CS throughout NJ."

The joint program will introduce students to three basic areas of computing. Using Weebly, a free web hosting service, participants will create multimedia submissions for this year's National History Day competition. They will also learn to use Windows Movie Maker and Microsoft Excel. Dr. Huang will oversee the program and Kean University computer science student Richard Olszewski will provide classroom instruction.
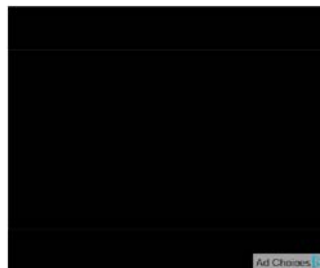
"This program provides the opportunity for our students to prepare for leadership roles in STEM," said Ronnie Dougherty, Principal of Freehold Intermediate School and the Director of the 21st Century Program.

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