**Subject Line:** Save the Date! UWG Hackathon for Teens on February 5, 2022

**Dear Educator:**

We are excited to announce *Coding for a Better Community: A Hackathon for Teens*. This event will take place on the Carrollton campus of the University of West Georgia on **Saturday, February 5, 2022,** in the Biology Building.

**What is a Hackathon?**

A member of the Carrollton community will present a problem related to “health and wellness” in our community. Using a provided collaborative computer workstation, teams will design and develop an application in the free Scratch environment (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) as a response or even partial solution to address the problem.

Mentors will be on hand to support teams on their projects, and a panel of judges will review presented solutions. Winners will be announced at a closing awards ceremony. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

We hope you can help us get the word out to potential junior high and high school students (aged ~13-18)! Feel free to share our [event flyer](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yq9S9qRx1Blb2zsUbv7Pkxxbfby38LBj/view?usp=sharing).

**Is this Just for Math and Computer Kids?**  
No, this event is for everyone. Our mentors are here to support teams of diverse abilities in thinking through the problem as well as in using the Scratch application. So, we ask that you share widely, to say, teachers in all English classes and not just limit your focus to specialized CTAE or math classes.

**Why Would a Teen Want to Spend their Saturday This Way?**

Participants get to work on teams to address a local problem and design a solution using the intuitive Scratch platform. The event comes with lunch, prizes, awesome mentors to help kids along the way, and more!

**Registration & Permission Forms**

Parents or guardians should complete their child’s registration here: <https://forms.gle/FwevpXjb54zAoAws9> The form can accommodate up to 4 kids per registration. For each child, parents/guardians should also submit the Hackathon Waiver paperwork (<https://tinyurl.com/hack-waiver>).

**About**

This event is generously sponsored by [GreenCourt](http://greencourt.com/), with additional support from the College of Education’s [Fusion Center](https://www.westga.edu/academics/fusion-center/index.php) and [Department of Educational Technology and Foundations](https://www.westga.edu/academics/education/etf/index.php), the [Department of Computing and Mathematics](https://www.westga.edu/academics/art-culture-science/computing-math/index.php) in the College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry, and [UWG’s Tinker Box](https://www.westga.edu/community/tinkersbox) maker space.

We hope to see you and your students there! Contact the Fusion Center with any questions ([fusioncenter@westga.edu](mailto:fusioncenter@westga.edu)).

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Sincerely,

The UWG Hackathon Team