

the problem.

In our increasingly digital world, the study of computer science is more important than ever. Computer science provides students with invaluable skills, not only with respect to the modern economy, but to the development of logical and creative thinking.

Only **35%** of American high schools teach computer science. In New Jersey, **less than half** offered an AP Computer Science course, and many of the schools that do offer computer science fail to excite students about the potential that technology has to improve the world around us.

All this while computer science jobs in New Jersey are **three times** more in demand than the average job, and computing occupations are the **number one source** of new wages in the United States.

Only 28% of students who took the AP Computer Science exam were women, and just 14.9% of all test takers were underrepresented minorities. Students are motivated and interested, but do not have access to the resources, networks, and tools to help them succeed in computer science and STEM-related fields.

Put simply, there is a **lack of opportunity** throughout our educational system.

the solution.

We want to change that, and do it right here in Jersey.

That's why on **April 25th**, **2020**, we will be hosting our third annual hackathon and technology conference in Jersey City: **MakeSPP**.

Over 120 high school students will bring their ideas into reality, working together in small teams to create a unique technological project over the course of 12 hours. At the end of the day, a group of judges will award the prizes for the best projects.

Participants will gain skills not only in programming, design, and entrepreneurship, but will have the opportunity to enhance their problem-solving abilities, gain self-confidence, and improve their presentation skills.

MakeSPP is not just for experienced programmers and technical wizards. Whether they've made hundreds of projects of their own or have never written a line of code in their lives, **MakeSPP** is available and accessible for all students. All students will be able to attend workshops on programming and entrepreneurship, and work with a team of mentors to guide their journey throughout the day.

We are committed to including students of all backgrounds, and

encourage the registration of women and traditionally underrepresented groups. Programming is a universal language, and we believe that absolutely no one should be left out.

Last year, we brought together over 120 students from the tri-state area, resulting in fun-filled education and productive day of learning and making. We heard from incredible speakers and connected students with mentors and industry professionals from across the tri-state area. We also had some awesome projects including BlinkOS, an onion routing android-based operating system with a special focus on privacy, and Detect-Protect, a program that quickly detects weapons from camera video feeds. Our event was even featured on the U.S.
Department of State's official blog.





making it happen...

Your support is essential to the success of **MakeSPP**.

Here's how you can help:

Donate money: We're looking to raise money for food, supplies, t-shirts, prizes, fees, and more. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible.

Send company representatives: Interact with students in-person and help them implement their projects.

Provide products: Allow students to seamlessly put together their project by utilizing your company's latest products and tools.

By sponsoring **MakeSPP**, your brand will be in front of over 120+ emerging engineers, makers, designers, and entrepreneurs in addition to thousands of others via local media. If you're interested, feel free to email us (<u>team@makespp.com</u>) to set up a call or meeting.

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