WE CONNECT THE DOTS
SCIENCE. TECHNOLOGY. ENGINEERING. ARTS. MATH.

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We Connect The Dots wraps up its 3rd Annual 2018 BACK-TO-SCHOOL CODE-A-THON
Building Computer Science skills to impact workforce development across NY, PA, and OH this year.

This January, We Connect The Dots hosted it's 3rd Annual Back-To-School Code-A-Thon held at three locations, including Westbury, NY, Darby, PA, and Sandusky County, OH. A concept designed by WCTD to provide students the opportunity to discover coding and ignite an interest in Computer Science careers. This year's program began with a kick off by NYS Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, the Lieutenant Governor shared with the students the importance of the 48-hour Code-A-Thon in developing skills for the careers in computer science, and how the experience would transform students over the weekend. The Lieutenant Governor was joined by Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman. Both speakers shared the excitement for the students and how they wished programs like this existed when they were their age. They also shared the importance of investments in computer science education for all, and the investments NYS is making to support teacher professional development. You can hear from both speakers via WCTD Facebook video page where the speakers delivered their thoughts to the students as they began their weekend together.

The event, called the Back-to-School Code-A-Thon, is a consecutive forty-eight hour competitive gamified learning experience that teaches students how to code in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. We Connect The Dots partnered with a number of industry partners, including Microsoft, and Adobe to bring the industry experts and communities together to support empowering the next generation of innovators. Students worked in teams of four to compete for prizes and to see who could use technology to develop the best project to address a social or global need while they learned valuable computer science skills that can be used outside of the classroom and later in the workforce. On hand were partners from the technology industry who aided in delivering the instruction, provided valuable talks about the future of tech careers, and acted as mentors and coaches for the students. The Back-to-School Code-A-Thon, over the course of 3 short years, has impacted hundreds of students, with 80% of the students coming from underserved communities, and underrepresented populations. Visit our website to check out our visual map to see the cities students came from for the program this year.

We believe in partnering with local businesses to support the economic growth and sustainability of the communities we serve. This year we were excited to work with Spectrum Designs, an organization with a focus on social impact through the education and support of Autism. Our T-Shirts for the Code-A-Thon were made at Spectrum. Visit our Youtube channel to watch our video of the program which includes the filming of the T-Shirts coming to life at Spectrum Design in Port Washington, NY.

We like to extend our gratitude. Thank you to the community businesses that helped through donated funds, food, facility costs, resources, and volunteering their time. A special thanks to Henry Bergmann from the facilities management team of 1025 OCR for his generous donation of the use of the facility and for donating funds for the prizes to support our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winning teams. Visit our website to see all of our amazing sponsors

Industry leaders, local business leaders, including Legislator Siela A. Bynoe came to spend their Sunday afternoon with us to experience the student's presentations. Volunteers provided their insight while acting as judges for the student projects. Provided with a Rubric, and a device to view the websites, these individuals spent the afternoon viewing the sites, and listening to the students present their projects. Thank you to all of our judges who supported the program across all three locations.

We Connect The Dots is a nonprofit organization that inspires and educates students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) careers through collaboration with the community, education, government and the technology industry.

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Information about the program can be found at the WCTD website: we-connect-the-dots.org