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

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New York Institute of Technology Sponsors We Connect The Dots 2018 BACK-TO-SCHOOL CODE-A-THON
Building Capacity to Engage Students in Computer Science

Westbury, NY: This January, We Connect The Dots (WCTD) will host its 3rd Annual Back-To-School Code-A-Thon held at five locations, including Long Island, NY, Darby, PA, Sandusky County, OH, Charlotte, NC , a concept designed by our nonprofit organization to provide students the opportunity to discover coding and ignite an interest in Computer Science careers . " As a WCTD Higher Education Partner, we are very excited to sponsor the Westbury location this year," said Nada Marie Anid, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences at New York Institute of Technology. According to Anid, "the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that employment in computer occupations grew by nearly a factor of 20 between 1975 and 2015. However, the demand for Computer Science majors exceeds by far the number of graduates in U.S. colleges. This is why NYIT's partnership with WCTD and the pipeline of Computer Science-savvy youngsters we're creating together is so important to the local Long Island economy, to our region, and nation."

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 HTML5, CSS, and JavaScript. We Connect The Dots has also partnered with a number of industry partners, including Microsoft, each year to bring the industry experts and communities together to support empowering the next generation of innovators. Students will work in teams of four to compete for prizes and to see who can develop the best project that addresses a social or global need while they learn valuable computer science skills that can be used outside of the classroom later in life. On hand will be partners from the technology industry who will be delivering the instruction, valuable talks about the future of tech careers, and mentor and coaching the students. The Back-to-School Code-A-Thon, now in its 3rd year, has impacted hundreds of students.

"This is a discovery program for students, designed for those curious about coding, and confused about where to begin. That is why it is called a Code-A-Thon and not a Hackathon. For many students, "Hackathon" can be intimidating and push them away with a sense of I can't do that. Our program does the opposite, it brings students together to learn and have fun, and explore the possibilities with no requirements for skills at all, just the desire to want to learn. What we see as a result of our program are students building confidence and desire to explore a deeper level of knowledge. We provide the tools, resources, and support to help them take that journey. We have students who come back again and again each year who then support other students as mentors to share their knowledge with their peers." says WCTD founder Laurie Carey. "Students today need to be prepared for a job market heavily entrenched in tech and sciences, and with the gap in students participating in career paths in STEM, there is no time to waste. We can show students how to be prepared for their future, and discover what they are passionate about in the process."

Registration for the Code-A-Thon is open for students in all area school districts. More information regarding hosting, registration, volunteering, and sponsoring the program can be found at http://we-connect-the-dots.org/codeathon-sponsors

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 and check out a video from last year's program
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDnoTKrVkms&feature=share