Local Organizations help Youth "Crack the Code" during

National Computer Science Education Week (Dec 4-10, 2017)

The local consortium Tech Education Alliance (T.E.A.), representing 20 organizations, tech businesses and agencies working to provide accessible tech-oriented education for learners in Dane County, along with Code.Org are offering local opportunities to learn coding and computer science during the national Hour of Code and National Computer Science Education Week, December 4-10, 2017.

The event, held in recognition of the birthday of computing pioneer Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, is an annual program dedicated to inspiring K-12 students to take interest in computer science. It is celebrated by 350 partners and 100,000 educators worldwide.

Interest in tech education programs for students, teachers and adults in greater Madison has been growing over the past few years. "Technology surrounds us and computer science education is part of understanding our world," says Alyssa Kenney, DANEnet executive director. "DANEnet wants to help youth and adults learn to be makers, creators and developers. We hope community Hour of Code workshop ignite an interest in more learning." Programs offered by Kids Code Madison and the Madison Public Library's Media Lab are picking up steam. And the not-for-profit WeThinkBig has responded to the need by hosting "Happy Hour of Code" teacher parties to introduce coding and free educational resources for the classroom. Volunteers from Madison's business, IT and tech communities mentor and assist teachers as they learn.

Local schools and community organizations are working together to promote coding opportunities in the greater Madison area and a list of innovative tech and coding activities are scheduled.

For information on Hour of Code Week programs and events, check event listings on the Tech Ed Alliance Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/pg/TechEdAlliance/events/ .

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The **TechEdAlliance** is an informal consortium of organizations, tech businesses and programs designed to introduce and support technology education and enjoyment. It works to provide free and low-cost programs and experiences for learners of all ages.

For more resources:

WI-Department of Public Instruction: https://dpi.wi.gov/pld/coding-initiative/resources

DANEnet: http://www.danenet.org

WeThinkBig: http://www.wethinkbiginc.org/programs/taste-of-tech-series/