

Code & Community: Milwaukee Hour of Code Events Set New Record for Students

71 Milwaukee Hour of Code Events Teach Nearly 5,000 Hours of Code to K-12 Students

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 17, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Northwestern Mutual and NEWaukee challenged local businesses and organizations to teach 1,000 hours of code to students during Computer Science Awareness Week (December 3-9). Twenty companies responded to the call, hosting 71 events and teaching more than 4,700 hours of code to K-12 students throughout the Milwaukee region. This was the first time the local business, non-profit and education communities partnered to provide STEM learning opportunities at this scale.

Experience the interactive Multichannel News Release here: <https://www.multivu.com/players/English/8239959-northwestern-mutual-hour-of-code/>

"We were excited to see this city-wide effort involve people of all ages in Hour of Code," said Alice Steinglass, President of Code.org. "We hope this momentum will continue into 2019 and beyond and that Milwaukee can be a champion for computer science in Wisconsin."

More than 190 volunteers led Milwaukee Hour of Code events, which coincided with Code.org's global Hour of Code campaign. The initiative is part of Northwestern Mutual's commitment to advance Milwaukee as a national hub for technology, business and talent development.

"When companies and communities work side by side to support a larger purpose, good things happen," said Karl Gouverneur, vice president of digital workplace, corporate solutions and head of digital innovation at Northwestern Mutual. "To build a vibrant tech hub in Milwaukee, we're providing students with STEM learning opportunities so that they can be inspired and develop an interest in technology from an early age."

Computer science drives growth and innovation throughout the economy and society, but according to Code.org, only 40 percent of high schools nationwide teach computer science.

Wisconsin currently has nearly [8,000 open computing jobs](#), and more than [30,000 technology job openings](#) in the Milwaukee seven county region are expected in the next five years due to retirement and changing careers alone. This number does not include new jobs projected to be created as digital transformation drives talent shifts in most industry sectors. To build the talent needed to be successful in the digital future, the Milwaukee region must establish a strong ecosystem that includes building classroom capacity for STEM education.

Participating companies and organizations included:

88Nine Radio Milwaukee
Advocate Aurora Health
Betty Brinn Children's Museum
Code.org
Discovery World
GE Healthcare
i.c. Stars Milwaukee
Islands of Brilliance
Marquette University
Milwaukee Electric Tool
Milwaukee Public Library
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Northwestern Mutual
Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute
Rockwell Automation
Scanalytics
SHARP Literacy
SynerComm
SysLogic
UW-Milwaukee

To learn more about Northwestern Mutual's commitment to STEM, visit innovation.nm.com.

About Code.org

Code.org is a 501c3 public non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. Its vision is that every student in every school has the opportunity to learn computer programming. After launching in 2013, Code.org organized the Hour of Code campaign – which has introduced over 100 million students to computer science to date – and partnered with 70 public school districts nationwide to expand computer science programs. Code.org is supported by philanthropic donations from corporations, foundations and generous individuals, including Microsoft, Facebook, Infosys Foundation USA, Amazon, and others. For more information, please visit: code.org.

About NEWaukee

NEWaukee is a social architecture firm that specializes in community-based signature experiences centered on high-profile issues of importance for the city of Milwaukee. NEWaukee also provides consumer, employer brand and talent engagement services to employers looking to attract and retain talent necessary to grow their businesses. Visit www.newaukee.com to learn more.

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