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MANCODE event to help male minority technology gap

Atlanta -- Nearly 1,200 young men of color will be exposed to computer science areas such as coding and artificial intelligence at Microsoft's MANCODE Technology Conference held Friday, December 13, 2019 at the Atlanta Technical College.

The event, set to begin at 9 a.m., on the college campus, 1560 Metropolitan Parkway SW. There are no more space available to attend the session.

The one-day conference, is a part of Computer Science Education week nationwide, will be teaching and professional development event that will instruct students in areas such as Cyber Security, Web Design, Coding and App Development. It will also teach students how to use the social media platform LinkedIn and resume building.

The initiative, which provides African American mentors and instructors, is imperative given only 2.2% of technology professionals are minority men.

"At Microsoft, we recognize there's a technology gap in underserved communities, especially with young men," said Shy Averett, community and events manager for Microsoft. "We not only want to bridge the digital divide, but inspire the next generation into computer science fields. Early interaction in areas such as coding or web design helps get young people more accustomed to using and creating in the digital space. We want to continue to be a leader in this space in ensuring no person is technologically behind."

The national initiative launched in October 2018 with actor Nick Cannon. To date, the program has reached more than 16,000 boys of color

As a part of Computer Science Education Week, a multitude of events will be held at Microsoft stores across the country. The national initiative is expected to reach more than 65,000 students.

Computer Science Education Week, which runs Dec. 9-13, is an annual program that was created to inspire K-12 students to take an interest in computer science worldwide. There are over 15,000 events hosted in this program worldwide. Microsoft stores will be hosting over 1,600 events with STEM influencers during the week throughout the US, Canada, UK and Australia with a focus on inclusion especially around underrepresented students.

In addition to MANCODE, Microsoft stores will be supporting this initiative by hosting thousands of free and diverse workshops/events for the public including:

- **Girls in Space, STEM Experience**
- **Deaf Kids Coding**
- **Black Girls Coding Experience**
- **Harry Potter Autism Coding Experience**
- **Next Latinx Game Developers**
- **Next Gen App Developers**

Among the noted celebrities taking part in events as speakers include: Nick Cannon, actor and philanthropist; Grammy Award winning artist Pitbull; NFL players Kelvin Beachum, Brandon Copeland and Lauretee McCray and Titus O'Neil, a WWE wrestler and philanthropist. Noted science influencers include Joanna Higgenbotham, the third African American woman in space; Nadmi Casimo, the first deaf woman to receive an Aeronautical Engineering degree and Tamiko Fletcher, a NASA Chief Information Security Officer. The speaker presentations will be live streamed in over 80 Microsoft Store locations Visit [Aka.MS/Csedweek.com](https://aka.ms/csedweek.com) for schedule and store locations.

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