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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Hackerspace is Coding with a Purpose

High school students have an opportunity to learn computer science skills

DELAND, Florida, Nov. 6, 2018 – High school students have a chance to learn about the computer science field during [Stetson University's](#) Hackerspace computer coding events. No coding experience is needed.

Math and computer science junior Heyley Gatewood has always gravitated towards numbers since she was a child. Her mom, a math teacher, has been her inspiration.

While at Stetson, Gatewood has given back by starting Starke STEM at the Edith I. Starke Elementary School in DeLand last year. Elementary school students were introduced to computer science by learning how to create and code their own video games and LEGO robots.

She has taken her coding pursuit further by organizing a series of free [Hackerspace events](#) for area high school and Stetson students with Stetson's computer science club on campus. At the first event, No-Code App Build Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 10, students will have an opportunity to build their own app. Students will be provided with technology resources.

The series of events lead up to The Greater Central Florida Tech Faire + HatterHacks (formerly Hackathon) during the spring semester, an event that draws hundreds of high school and college students from all over the area.

"The Hackerspace events are designed for students who are beginners and have no experience with coding," said Gatewood, who will be providing the students with computer science building blocks. Students who do have experience with coding are welcome to attend as well. "These events are the perfect introduction to the computer science world. I want these events to show students the creative and innovative process. I'm giving them the first step with the staircase laid out in front of them. I think students should obtain a computer science degree because it's the future."

Hackerspace free events schedule:

No-Code App Build Workshop - 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Lynn Business Center, computer lab rooms 317 and 322. Participants will build and deploy an app that can be used to organize campus and extracurricular events, such as, fundraisers. Users of the app will be able to post events, see a list of events and register for and rate events. Participants will be able to customize their app and continue building it after the workshop is completed.

Local Hack Day and Hour of Code - 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Lynn Business Center, computer lab rooms 317 and 322 and the auditorium. This event is a combination of

Major League Hacking's Local Hack Day and Code.org's Hour of Code. Students will have the opportunity to learn different computer science programming language or topic every hour for 12 hours straight.

Build and Deploy First Website - 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019. Participants will learn the structure and syntax of basic HTML and CSS. They also will receive a skeleton of a portfolio website and will update the HTML to include information about themselves and edit the CSS to style and position elements on their page. Then they will deploy their new website.

Hacking Alexa - 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019. Participants will learn the basics of how to build skills for Amazon Alexa to run on Alexa devices like the Amazon Tap or Echo.

Dates for the **Greater Central Florida Tech Faire + HatterHacks** will be announced soon for the spring, as well as the site and other details.

Students can pre-register for any of the free workshops by emailing hack@stetson.edu. Students can register at the Lynn Business Center on the day of the workshops, but only if spaces are still available. The workshops are being held with the support of [Major League Hacking](#).

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 384 Best Colleges, 2019 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

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