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CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES ANNOUNCES SECOND ANNUAL HIGH-TECH CHI, A CITYWIDE CELEBRATION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

High-Tech CHI is co-hosted by the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), CS for Success, Discovery Partners Institute and Google, and will offer hands-on activities for Chicagoland families to learn about computing.

CHICAGO – This week, the Department of Family and Support Services is hosting the second annual High-Tech CHI, a day-long event focused on introducing K-14 students to new computing concepts in the spirit of Computer Science Education Week (#CSEdWeek). High-Tech CHI will take place on Dec. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. CT at Google Chicago, located at 320 N Morgan St Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60607.

"DFSS is incredibly proud to present High-Tech CHI, a program that is built around problem-solving and analytical skills that underscore the importance of a computer science education in today's society," said **DFSS Commissioner Brandie Knazze.** "More than ever, computer programming is as essential as reading, math, and writing were generations ago, which is why the demand for people with computer science skills continues to grow. Because of its countless applications in today's job market, a computer science education offers our young people a tremendous opportunity to realize their potential and pursue a successful career."

In 2023, this program launched at Google Chicago, bringing together Chicagoland's tech workforce, government agencies, academic institutions, and community-based organizations to expose, engage, and inspire attendees to explore computing. In its inaugural year, 1051 attendees registered for this event, supported by 15 sponsors and featuring 19 sessions. Watch a full recap of the event here.

"It was incredible to see the reception of High-Tech CHI last year from all stakeholders involved," said **Co-Founder and CEO of CS for Success, Abril Vela.** "Without the collaboration between and

across sectors, we would not have been able to accomplish such a large kick-off that reached such a wide audience. We are eager to take what we've learned from the first iteration of the event to continue to grow."

This event will be returning to Google Chicago this year in a new, dual-track format:
- **Family Engagement Track:** With hands-on and interactive activities curated for K-8th students and parents, this track is designed to encourage exploration and develop curiosity.
- **High School & Beyond Track:** This track will feature workshops, an expo hall, and panel discussions for high school students, 2-year/4-year college students, and students enrolled in alternative learning programs to gain insights into computing career pathways.

"Computing is not only the language of business but a vital thread in the fabric of our creative, social, and cultural lives," said **Director of the Pritzker Tech Talent Labs at the Discovery Partners Institute, Mark Harris.** "We are excited to be co-sponsoring High Tech CHI again this year, to showcase the possibilities of tech and pursuing tech pathways for more of our region's youth and families. By fostering collaboration among students of all levels—K-12, post-secondary and beyond—we're building a stronger, more inclusive tech workforce. Together, we're shaping a more capable and resilient Illinois and a future workforce that will not just thrive but will lead the nation in creativity, technical innovation, and collaborative problem-solving."

By partnering with community-based organizations that are invested in providing students with access to a computer science education and connecting them with Chicago's booming tech industry, High-Tech CHI aims to demonstrate the opportunities available to students across the city through computing.

"Google is thrilled to host High-Tech CHI for a second year at our Fulton Market Office in celebration of CS Education Week," said **Google's Director of State & Local Government Affairs, Rob Biederman.** "At Google, we are deeply invested in the work of creating opportunities for students to learn the technical skills that are shaping our future. We are committed to making sure these opportunities and benefits are available to all students. High-Tech CHI is such an exciting and important opportunity to invite our full community to come together to inspire and support our future creators, builders and technologists."

Interested individuals can register now for High-Tech CHI at htc2024.eventbrite.com

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