



MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

MEDIA CONTACT

Angela Mitchell
Director of External
Affairs

angela@mcm.ms

P: 601.709.8354

The Mississippi Children's Museum Hosts Inaugural CS Wonder Coding Competition

PRESS RELEASE • FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • 3/12/24

Jackson, MS – The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) proudly hosted its first-ever CS Wonder Coding Competition on March 7, 2024, sparking excitement and innovation in the hearts and minds of young learners.

MCM's first CS Wonder Coding Competition brought together 10 teams in Jackson and 6 teams in Meridian, representing a total of 15 schools from across the state. In Jackson, approximately 50 students and teachers participated in the competition, while Meridian showcased talents from 31 enthusiastic participants.

The competition featured a remarkable display of talent, with McWillie Elementary securing 1st place in Jackson, followed by Southaven Intermediate in 2nd place, and Northshore Elementary in 3rd place. Additionally, numerous Spirit awards were presented to teams showcasing exceptional teamwork, creativity, and sportsmanship.

At MCM-Meridian, Henderson Ward Elementary clinched 1st place and a Spirit award for their collaborative efforts. Newton County Elementary secured 2nd place, and Southeast Lauderdale claimed 3rd place, demonstrating the diverse coding talents across the state.

Teams were tasked with designing robots to successfully complete three tasks, requiring students to collaborate and employ creative problem-solving strategies. The competition not only showcased the technical skills of the participants, but also highlighted their ability to work as a team and think critically under pressure.

CS Wonder enhances the participant experience by partnering with Mississippi State University's Department of Cyber Education and Central Creativity, offering mentorship, and leveraging their expertise on the judging panel for this competition. The program is made possible thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"We are thrilled by the success of the inaugural CS Wonder Coding Competition. It's inspiring to witness the enthusiasm and talent of these

young minds as they embrace the world of coding and robotics,” said Susan Garrard, MCM President/CEO.

CS Wonder recruited educators from diverse school districts across Mississippi to participate in comprehensive training courses in coding, robotics, and digital literacy. During both digital and in-person training, educators received original instruction, and upon completion, they returned to their respective schools as conduits of The LIFT’s teaching for their colleagues. This strategic approach, having educators share and lead subsequent classroom training, is central to the program’s philosophy.

Participating school districts that have implemented the comprehensive training taught through CS Wonder provides STEAM education to students who may not ordinarily receive exposure to such high-level instruction in technology.

Programs like CS Wonder, showcase MCM’s commitment to fostering computational thinking and problem-solving skills among Mississippi’s youth. STEAM education and training is equally important for teachers and students, alike, and through The LIFT, MCM has a robust plan to advance STEAM education, which in return will strengthen the future of Mississippi’s workforce and retain top talent in our state.

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About the Mississippi Children’s Museum

The Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission of creating unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning in all children. MCM’s two award-winning museums in Jackson and Meridian collectively offer over 100,000-square feet of exhibits and educational programming designed around five primary initiatives, Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi Heritage – the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. MCM offers exceptional resources for children, families, and educators through The LIFT, traveling exhibits and programs, community outreach, *Launch into Learning* afterschool program, professional development for educators, and innovative literacy and language development programs: *Talk from the Start and Reach Out and Read*. MCM is honored to have received an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal, the Mississippi Tourism Association Governor’s Award for Travel Attraction of the Year, and USA Today’s ‘10Best Travel Award for Best Children’s Museum. To learn more about MCM visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org.