YOUR INVITATION TO A SPECIAL STATE EVENT

The Alabama State Department of Education and Auburn City Schools are hosting a special news event to officially begin Alabama Computer Science Education Week — The Hour of Code. This exciting event will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016, at the Auburn Early Education Center (721 East University Drive), beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Computer technology is advancing every industry in America. Understanding computing processes is now an essential part of a well-rounded education. Alabama Computer Science Education Week is a statewide celebration focused on showing students the benefits of pursuing careers in this profession.

The Hour of Code is a one-hour online introduction to computer science education for all Alabamians — students, parents, grandparents, teachers, and everyone. It demonstrates basic computer coding practices and shows participants how rewarding technology careers can be.

America needs computer science professionals — Our students will lead this industry in the future

- Research shows only 8 percent of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) college graduates are in Computer Science — 71 percent of all new jobs in STEM however, are computer-related [https://hourofcode.com/us/computer-science](https://hourofcode.com/us/computer-science).
- Cyber Security Analyst and Software Developer are examples of well-known careers in this profession.
- Computing is the top source of wages in the U.S. - there are over 500,000 computing jobs open nationwide.
- According to the Department of Labor, the average salary of Computer and Information Research Scientists in our state is more than $100,000 per year [http://www2.abora.gov/DEO/Wage/specialtyala.asmx](http://www2.abora.gov/DEO/Wage/specialtyala.asmx).

Over 400 Alabama schools and community organizations have signed-up to celebrate this special event. Computer Science Education Week — The Hour of Code [https://hourofcode.com/us/event/atlas](https://hourofcode.com/us/event/atlas).

We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us as we celebrate this state event!

Need additional information? Contact Dawn Morrison at 334-242-9109 or Ed Crenshaw at 334-353-5220