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Contact: Margo Venable

856.227.7200 or [mvenable@camdencc.edu](mailto:mvenable@camdencc.edu)

April 23, 2018

## **South Jersey STEM Ecosystem Hosts ‘Internet of Things’ Hackathon at Camden County College**

**Blackwood, NJ**– On Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>, The South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership (SJSIP) hosted its first annual Internet of Things (IoT) Hackathon, based on the Cisco Hackathon Playbook framework, for high school students at Camden County College.

Over the course of 12 hours, the one-day Hackathon event, nicknamed “Hack SJSIP,” brought together teams of high school students, supported by college student and industry mentors, and asked them to develop technological innovative solutions to real-life challenges of their choosing.

Teams used the Cisco Hackathon Playbook framework to state and define a specific problem, create a solution concept, build a prototype, and refine that prototype into a final, presentable product. Students were then asked to “sell their ideas” in a “Shark Tank-style” presentation to a panel of judges.

“If I didn’t have an opportunity for a business challenge with a positive impact for society... I wouldn’t be here today,” said Chuck Robbins, who serves as Chief Executive Officer of Cisco Systems, in reference to providing the Cisco Hackathon Playbook framework for the SJSIP Hackathon.

Along with providing a platform for students to compete and develop skills in computer science, computing and information technology, and engineering, the Hackathon allowed students to push the envelope in creative thinking, problem solving, entrepreneurial pitching, and hands-on learning.

The IoT Hackathon was hosted by The South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership, a community of collaborative partners seeking to improve STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education and career pathways across southern New Jersey. The growing community includes collaborators representing industry, post-secondary education, K-12 schools, philanthropy, small businesses and STEM-rich organizations engaged under a common vision for STEM. The SJSIP leadership team includes representatives from Camden County College, the Camden Dream Center, Cumberland County College, Mindbytes, LLC and Salem Community College.

The Camden County IoT Hackathon is one of two Hackathon events that are hosted by the South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership. The second Hackathon will be held at Salem Community College in the summer of 2018. The support for the two IoT Hackathon events has been generously provided by the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network via the Overdeck Family Foundation, as well as Koinonia Family Life, Camden County College, and Salem Community

College.

“The Hackathon is one of the first activities designed to support the mission of the South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership to better prepare all learners within the region for the rapidly evolving STEM economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, ” said Margo Venable, Dean of the Division of School, Community & Workforce Training Programs at Camden County College, and member of the South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership Steering Committee.

You can learn more about the Internet of Things Hackathon and The South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership by visiting [www.southjerseysip.org](http://www.southjerseysip.org).

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*The South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership is one of four designated STEM ecosystems across New Jersey. The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network, an initiative chaired by philanthropist Laura Overdeck, and now managed by the Research & Development Council of New Jersey, spearheaded the creation of these four STEM learning ecosystems to inform the alignment of STEM resources, support an education-to-workforce STEM pipeline, identify exemplary learning opportunities, and promote STEM career pathways. You can learn more about the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network by visiting [www.njstempathways.org](http://www.njstempathways.org).*