TECH Summits go *virtual* for Earth Day

**COVID-19 vs. Technology**
- Researchers use Supercomputers to understand COVID-19
- Millions sent home without Broadband Internet or Wi-Fi

April 2020
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For 40 years, BDPA has enabled the upward mobility of African Americans and other minorities in the Information Technology (IT) and STEM fields. Through its 40+ local community chapters in major cities across the United States, BDPA has been at the forefront of promoting the minority agenda within the IT profession since 1975. BDPA has been a leader and pioneer in technology and STEM training for IT professionals and High School students since 1986.

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BDPA, formerly known as Black Data Processing Associates, was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1975 to promote professional growth and technical development to those in or entering information and communications technology (ICT) career fields and related industries.

Now in its 43rd year (Volume XLIII) National BDPA (NBDPA) and participating local BDPA Chapters publish daily and weekly blogs with quarterly or monthly newsletters. For bdpatoday or web banner advertising rates, publication schedules, and online calendars with Industry events, contact regional offices or local BDPA Chapters by visiting bdpa.org or bdpatoday.com.

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Why Supercomputers are Important for COVID-19 Research

AUSTIN, TX — In the midst of the current pandemic, researchers across the country are turning to the most powerful high-performance computing resources available to gain a better understanding of COVID-19.

In order to study how the virus interacts with the human body on an atomic level, as well as how it spreads from one person to another, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and researchers are developing detailed models of the virus’ structure and transmission that rely on complex simulations involving large amounts of data.

To perform the necessary calculations, researchers are increasingly turning to some of the most powerful and uniquely capable computing facilities in the world like the NSF-funded Frontera supercomputer located at The University of Texas at Austin. As a leading supporter of academic computing research and infrastructure, NSF is playing an important role in facilitating much-needed COVID-19 research.

NSF is currently exploring how we can provide rapid-response services and expertise to the community to help address these near-term challenges. We hope that this assistance will enhance the work of the COVID-19 HPC Consortium and the fight against the global pandemic, as well as contribute to helping manage and maintain the continuity of the research enterprise during these uncertain times.

– Source: National Science Foundation (NSF)
The House and Senate are in recess through at least April 20, 2020 (they were already scheduled to be in recess April 6-17).

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) on Thursday announced the creation of a special House select committee charged with overseeing the multi-trillion dollar federal response to the coronavirus pandemic. Pelosi tapped House Democratic Whip Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC), the 3rd-ranking House Democrat, to lead the bipartisan panel, which will have subpoena power and will be authorized to examine all aspects of the federal response to the coronavirus, targeting waste, fraud, price-gauging, profiteering and political favoritism.

Governors are pushing Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to immediately distribute more than $30 billion in education funds for states, school districts and higher education included in the CARES Act. Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and Washington Governor Jay Inslee sent a letter to Secretary DeVos on April 3rd on behalf of the National Governors Association (NGA) urging her to make sure states have maximum flexibility so they can determine how to best address their community needs. Hutchinson, a Republican, and Inslee, a Democrat, chair the NGA Education and Workforce Committee. The department hasn’t provided any indication of how or when it plans to distribute the money.

As a part of the CBC TECH 2020 five-year plan, members of the CBC Diversity Task force held several meetings with Industry’s most influential tech executives in an effort to encourage them to implement diversity plans that place more African Americans directly into their tech pipelines.

The CBC understands that each company or organization requires a unique approach to diversity and inclusion. Toward this end, CBC continued working with companies and organizations to adopt diversity inclusion plans or African American inclusion plans that would outline specific, measurable steps the company would take to increase recruitment and retention of African Americans within their respective industry verticals.

CBC TECH 2020 reports from participating mission partners are expected shortly after year’s end. National BDPA and local BDPA Chapters have supported CBC’s inclusion plan by accomplishing the following since fiscal year 2015 (FY15).

Prior to the conclusion of this plan, National BDPA is working with Industry to establish and formalize partnerships with Silicon Valley technology firms to facilitate a pipeline of internships, as well as entry-level and experienced-hire talent. These partnerships may include any or all of the following: financial commitment, in-kind donations, recruitment opportunities, scholarships, internships, strategic and executive support National BDPA’s plan with CBC is available on the association’s CBC TECH 2020 landing page: https://www.bdpa.org/page/CBCTech2020.

During our next decade, trade associations and community tech organizations such as BDPA will continue their work with Industry, Academia, Congress, General Assembly, and City Councils to address and properly fund technical workforce development, cybersecurity, anti-trust, ethics, intellectual property, and data privacy initiatives.
NSF Scholarships 2020 • FY20 | TECH Industry Milestones + Deadlines

National Science Foundation Scholarships in STEM Program (S-STEM)

WASHINGTON — The National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program addresses the need for a high quality STEM workforce in STEM disciplines supported by the program and for the increased success of low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The NSF S-STEM program particularly encourages proposals from 2-year institutions, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), tribal colleges and universities, and urban and rural public institutions.

Full proposals are due from schools before March 25, 2020. Update MOUs, Corporate Memberships, and BDPA Student Memberships for these and other advanced notices.

S-STEM Eligible Degree Programs

- Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science; Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science; Bachelor of Applied Science; Bachelor of Arts; Master of Science; and Doctoral

S-STEM Eligible Disciplines

- Biological sciences (except medicine and other clinical fields); Physical sciences (including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and materials science); Mathematical sciences; Computer and information sciences; Geosciences; Engineering; and technology fields associated with above listed disciplines (e.g. biotechnology, chemical technology, engineering technology, information technology). Programs in business schools that lead to Bachelor of Arts or Science in Business Administration degrees (BABA/BSBA) are not eligible for S-STEM funding. Proposers, schools, and BDPA Student Chapters are strongly encouraged to contact NSF Program Officers before submitting proposals if they have questions concerning requirements or degree eligibility.

— National Science Foundation
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The United States Air Force, AFCS, and AFRL are BDPA mission partners providing success stories and new videos to share with BDPA and PTTV playlists.

Tesla Motors of Washington, D.C. and SpaceX provided new videos to share with BDPA’s PTTV playlists.

The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and the District’s Department of Energy & Environment (DoEE) held virtual presentations celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, a day when we demonstrate support for the Anacostia River and environmental protection.

SpaceX and Tesla Motors of Washington, D.C. provided new videos for bdpatoday to share with BDPA’s PTTV playlists.

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd each year.

BDPA’s CyberEarth experience establishes a series of Earth Day Tech Summits powered by local BDPA Chapters.

Each summit provides interactive STEM events designed to inclusively broaden parent, teacher, and student outreach engagements with Industry opportunities across Air, Land, Sea, and Space domains from sponsors.

Annual topics include SMART City infrastructures, 5G technologies, the Internet of Things (IoT), and Cybersecurity.

Visit bdpatoday.com and view our updated playlists on Popular Technology TV (PTTV) to review #CyberEarth2020 presentations with related content. bt

Dr. DaNa Carlis (center) Meteorologist and Program Manager, Office of Weather and Air Quality, with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), spent an Earth Day Saturday morning with National Capital Region coding finalists during CyberEarth19 in Washington, D.C. Dr. Carlis discussed NOAA’s supercomputers, modeling and simulation, geospatial imagery, satellite technologies, and 2019’s hurricane season with area parents and students. The D.C. Courts training facility co-hosted BDPA’s 2019’s Tech Summit — bdpatoday photo © 2019 by BDPAdc
ARMONK, NY — In the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic, IBM’s clients are facing unprecedented circumstances. Much of the world’s critical infrastructure such as governments, healthcare, transportation, financial services and other major industries depend on IBM – which is why being of service to our world and the systems that power it remain their top priority.

In particular, for some states this is manifesting in processing a record number of unemployment claims and facing some temporary challenges. Industry sees these customers needing to rapidly scale their systems to handle the increase in demand and IBM has been actively working with clients to manage those applications. There are also some states that are in need of additional programming skills to make changes to COBOL – a language that has been widely reported to have an estimated 220 billion lines of code being actively used today. These changes to the code are required to take into account any new parameters for unemployment payment eligibility, in a very short timeframe.

IBM has a long history of investing in mainframe skills. In addition to contributing to the Open Mainframe Project Community Forum and providing expanded open-source training, there are a number of initiatives that IBM has been participating in to address the continuous need for COBOL skills by our community. For immediate career opportunities in this space, learn more at bdpatoday.com.

— by Meredith Stowell, Vice President, IBM Z Ecosystem

Source: IBM

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