DETROIT, MI (NAACP Detroit) — This week it was announced that 51,000 Detroit school children and their parents will have access to laptops and the internet. A few weeks ago, this was only a thought in the minds of a few very dedicated people. Now children all around this city, regardless of economic, social or racial status will become more knowledgeable, more prepared, and more confident in their future.

Partners in this effort are the Detroit Branch NAACP, DTE Energy, DPSCD, Quicken Loans, The Skillman Foundation, City of Detroit, General Motors, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. For additional coverage, learn more at bdpatoday.com.

— by Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony, President, Detroit Branch NAACP

Photo: NAACP Detroit
Source: BDPA Detroit

51,000 parents and children in Detroit receive laptops with free Internet access

Annual Earth Day Tech Summits for 2020 go virtual amid pandemic

WASHINGTON (BDPA DC) — The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and National BDPA’s Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter (BDPA-DC) had plans to co-host this year’s annual Earth Day Tech Summit. Earth Day’s 50th Anniversary was supposed to feature student Energy and Environment presentations; SMART City IoT Workshops with a student member IoT Showcase; Ai, supercomputing, and satellite updates from NOAA; and special static vehicle displays on campus powered by Tesla Motors. These combined events will have to wait until next year for #CyberEarth21.

Amid this year’s COVID-19 pandemic, CyberEarth2020 pivoted to hybrid presentations via online channels bdpatoday.com and PopularTechnology.tv already providing content from Industry and BDPA Chapters for local community engagements. UDC conducted their presentations and workshops live via Webex, powered by Cisco.

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.

Visit bdpatoday.com or view our playlists on Popular Technology TV to review #CyberEarth2020 presentations with related content.

— Sources: BDPA DC and UDC
Photo courtesy: NOAA
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All,

The circumstances surrounding the coronavirus are continuing to develop each day. This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage our members to exercise safety and caution. We are closely monitoring developments and offer the following information and guidance.

What to know about COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus):

The general risk remains low; however, there have been several confirmed cases across the country including two confirmed cases in Georgia (Our conference location).

In confirmed COVID-19 cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

According to the CDC, older adults and those with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19.

Please follow guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and U.S. State Department for recommendations and travel advisories.

Person-to-person spread is occurring, although it’s unclear exactly how it is transmitted and how easily the virus spreads between people.

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

We could be in this state for an extended period of time and encourage you to plan accordingly for student and adult programming. Crisis ultimately breeds innovation. This is a unique opportunity for us to re-evaluate how we may still nurture and develop working professionals and future STEM leaders, all while being mindful of our members’ health, safety, and being intentionally inclusive of those without resources.

The National Executive Committee and Conference Team are working closely to assess the situation and consider the potential options for the conference. We are evaluating the development of a virtual conference experience. Our goal is to create an unmatched experience that retains the same energy, value, and diverse experience for all participants no matter the format the conference takes. Rest assured, we are continuously monitoring this developing situation and will continue to keep you all updated on plans for the conference experience as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Terry J. Morris, BDPA President

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BDPA, formerly known as Black Data Processing Associates, was established in 1975 and founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 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 45th year (Volume XLV) National BDPA (NBDPA) and participating local BDPA Chapters publish daily and weekly blogs with quarterly or monthly newsletters.

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