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BDPA2020

Unrest amidst Pandemics and Infodemics greet STEM Grads

(Above) Protesters in the District of Columbia pass an Apple retail store in Georgetown during civil unrest downtown and across from the White House. (Courtesy photo by JoshWho News)

MINNEAPOLIS, MN — This semester, Minnesota’s graduating Class of 2020 and their peers across America were greeted by a pandemic, civil unrest, virtual classrooms, virtual graduations, and infodemics relentlessly increasing disinformation campaigns.

Almost halfway through their tumultuous year, history may soon prove to them none of these major circumstances were ‘Black Swan’ events, something unexpected. Failed economic development and weak tech-inclusion policies led to wider digital divides, news deserts, health deserts, and red-lining practices continue to exacerbate technical workforce challenges. Underfunded STEM programs notwithstanding, elected officials and STEM leaders have failed to jointly level-up to mitigate tech divides, eliminate information deserts, provide broadband access to everyone.

Success stories continue. Over the past few decades, Minnesota provided over 10 national high school computer competition (HSCC) coding championship teams from Minneapolis/St. Paul (BDPA Twin Cities) and Rochester (BDPA Southern Minnesota). Although there were no invitations to the White House nor national media coverage, today’s students remain very proud to stand on the shoulders of distinguished HSCC and IT Showcase alumni.

National BDPA’s Twin Cities Chapter remains focused on championing our next generation of community and IT leadership. As an organization staffed entirely of highly respected professionals from our Information Communications Technology (ICT) industry, BDPA’s Twin Cities Chapter continues to offer unique opportunities to connect new BDPA members and students with leading digital transformation technologies, STEM education, and cybersecurity training.

Discover more. View related articles or archived success stories about BDPA alumni from Minnesota via bdpatoday.com.

BREAKING: SpaceX is a ‘GO!’

HAWTHORNE, CA — SpaceX Exploration Technologies Corp., trading as SpaceX, is a private American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation services company founded in 2002 by Elon Musk. Today’s successful launch of SpaceX’s Dragon Endeavour spacecraft to dock with the International Space Station (ISS) is another major milestone for commercial space flights.

IT’s all about NASA’s code. Sign-up for the June 2020 edition of bdpatoday.
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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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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

• Connect to a network of IT professionals
• Enhance and develop additional technical skill sets
• Acquire professional and leadership skills
• Participate actively in an organization that is setting trends in emerging technology
• Discount rates to the Annual Technology Conference and Career Fair
• Obtain exposure to technical and professional topics through program meetings, seminars and workshops
• Participate in certification support groups
• Discounts on IT certifications and training courses
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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