



by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** West Virginia's commitment to advancing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education is vital to preparing our students to compete globally for careers and ensure that the next generation of West Virginia workers are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow; and
- Whereas,** the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that employment of computer and information technology occupations is projected to grow 13 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia leaders are working diligently to strengthen the state's economy by attracting new industry to the state, especially within the STEM field; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia is poised for extraordinary job growth in STEM-related industries as a result of recent economic announcements including the passage of the historic road bond and an \$83.7 billion investment announcement with China Energy; and
- Whereas,** as the lead education entity in the state, the West Virginia Board of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) have a responsibility to ensure our West Virginia students graduate with the skills and qualifications needed to fulfill future workforce demands, especially those within the Mountain State; and
- Whereas,** to achieve this goal, and to ensure STEM work is coordinated, connected and inclusive, the WVDE has established the West Virginia Advisory Council for a Comprehensive Approach to STEM Education, with a significant focus on access to computer science for all West Virginia students; and
- Whereas,** the Governor's STEM Initiative supports the expansion of STEM projects, activities, and other hands-on learning experiences in both public and private schools, afterschool programs, non-profits, and other STEM education related organizations; since its establishment in 2015, the Governor's STEM Initiative has provided \$940,000 in grant awards impacting the lives of over 70,000 West Virginia students in 45 of West Virginia's 55 counties with the expectation of reaching all 55 counties in upcoming years; and
- Whereas,** the Advisory Council will foster collaboration among STEM advocates across the state including the Governor's Office, the West Virginia Legislature, the West Virginia Board of Education, WVDE, West Virginia Department of Commerce, the West Virginia National Guard, the Higher Education Policy Commission, Community and Technical College Council, the higher education community, the Office of Secretary of Education and the Arts, business and industry, and other stakeholders to expand awareness, promote 21st century skills, and support computer science opportunities; and
- Whereas,** the Advisory Council will also be inclusive of businesses that have a vested interest in STEM education and insight into workforce needs that provide a unique perspective and can provide future opportunities for students; and
- Whereas,** each of these Advisory Council members are champions for STEM education and students will benefit from their efforts, especially when those efforts are coordinated; and
- Whereas,** working together, these efforts will enable West Virginia students to become leaders of tomorrow with strong STEM and computer science competencies and skill sets, such as those in coding, cybersecurity and programming.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *December 4-10, 2017* as:

Computer Science Education Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all schools, educators, parents, and policymakers to participate by enabling and encouraging students to participate in the Hour of Code, www.hourofcode.com, encouraging year-long engagement with STEM education.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seventeen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Fifth year of the State.

∩

Governor

By the Governor:

Jim Justice