

Lake Geneva Regional News

Brookwood students glimpse IT programs at Gateway

Students join weeklong effort to promote teaching of computer coding

ELKHORN — Nearly 370 Walworth County students took part Dec. 8 in the Hour of Code hosted by Gateway Technical College at its Elkhorn campus to introduce students to information technology.

Students from Brookwood Middle School in Genoa City participated in the event designed to encourage them to consider coding as a way of understanding problem solving, among other educational activities.

"We introduced them to information technology, and taught them that they can be successful. From tours of our academic programs to helping them to code, we try to instill an image to them of what IT is and what the Hour of Code is really about," said Joe Fullington, Gateway Technical College associate dean of business.

The Gateway Hour of Code event was one of several events held in 180 countries across the globe during the week of Dec. 4-10 as a way to introduce students to computer science and "demystify" code.

More than 1,000 students participated in Gateway's events held on its campuses in Elkhorn, Ra-

cine and Kenosha.

Students experienced coding from beginning to end, from writing code to the application of code.

During the coding part of the event, students learned about code and then applied it to video games. They made changes to the games, or made the characters do certain actions.

In addition to coding, students also took a tour of some of the academic programs of the college, where they were able to see the real-world impact of coding.

From graphic design programs to digital Snap-on torque wrenches, students were able to connect coding to application of tools and equipment used in everyday life or at the workplace.

"Students experienced the back end of coding, and then the front end, where they see the products and how they worked," said Fullington.

"They gained a greater understanding of what code does for that end product, and for the user," he added. They saw what coding actually does in the real world."



Brookwood Middle School students Madisyn Hogan, left, and Hailey Durham participate in the Hour of Code event at Gateway Technical College in Elkhorn. (Contributed photo/Regional News)



Carter Volck and Joshua Alderton, students from Brookwood Middle School in Genoa City, take their turns at learning information technology at Gateway Technical College. (Contributed photo/Regional News)

Enter To **WIN**
\$4,000
 \$100 awarded weekly \$3,000 Grand Prize