



PRESS RELEASE

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Digital Health Collaborative Launches Connectathon Challenge in the Real World

(Beaverton, Ore.) – Digital health companies in Beaverton are teaming up with the emerging bright minds of Beaverton’s Health and Science School to launch the [Connectathon Challenge: Diabetes](#). As a first-of-its-kind event, six teams of high schoolers will develop smart solutions to manage pressing health issues, such as diabetes. Interactive training sessions begin this week and culminate with team presentations at the final Connectathon Challenge: Diabetes event on Thursday, May 17.

Hosted by the Digital Health Collaborative (DHC) in Beaverton, the goal of the 6-week Connectathon course is three-fold: Introduce emerging technology to students; expand the traditional academic curriculum to foster a better understanding of emerging health issues; and expose students to career pathways and opportunities to build their skills and knowledge. Participating students will address real world health concerns, such as the unique challenges associated with Type 1 diabetes and the increased incidence of Type 2 diabetes among young people; according to the [American Diabetes Association](#), Type 2 diabetes is growing rapidly as the result of poor diet and health choices.

The kickoff will be Education Day on Saturday, March 17. Following an interactive presentation from experts at OHSU’s Harold Schnitzer Diabetes & Health Center, students will take part in targeted tech training and ideation, where they will lay the groundwork for a connected solution to address diabetes. Each team will be given Bluetooth low-energy devices, including a tablet and smart watch; and software tools including Microsoft Imagine. Microsoft Imagine connects students with the tools, resources and experiences they need to elevate their skills for today’s working world. Industry mentors will engage and support their efforts. Students will have a unique opportunity to ideate and innovate new solutions specifically designed to support diabetes patients.

“Hands-on learning experiences such as the Connectathon Challenge: Diabetes keeps students engaged in the skills that will build relevance to today’s innovation economy and the increasingly technological world around them. We very much appreciate the efforts of all partners involved in bringing this exciting opportunity to our students and teachers,” said Beaverton School District Superintendent Don Grotting.

“The Connectathon Challenge: Diabetes will inspire the imaginations and creativity of high school students who naturally turn to technology with a ‘what can we use technology for to make our lives better?’ approach. It’s also designed to encourage students to become part of Beaverton’s talented workforce through their collaboration with local industry mentors,” said Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle.

“The [Digital Health Collaborative](#) was founded on the premise of fostering the rise of digital health here locally through community engagement, targeted professional workshops, education/community outreach, engineering expertise and cross-industry networking,” said Dennis McNannay, CEO of Curadite and co-founder of the DHC

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“The DHC is an Internet-of-Things hub, bridging key technology partners, healthcare systems and digital health innovator companies of all sizes and locations.”

“For this upcoming generation, it will be about how ‘Health 2.0’ is defining the future of collaboration and innovation in the health care space,” said Frank Ille, president and CEO of HealthSaaS, and co-founder of the Digital Health Collaborative.

The [Power2Work Foundation](#) is a nonprofit partner of the DHC and is providing support for the Connectathon. The Connectathon Challenge: Diabetes is expected to be the first in a series of challenges pairing area students with technology sector mentors to create smart solutions in pressing health issues.

“We have a responsibility to create a path to employment for the youth who participate. Success for us happens years from now, when the students who participate reference the Connectathon to beat the competition and land their first job,” said Dave Richards, founder and CEO of RISEcx and board member, Power2Work.

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About the Digital Health Collaborative

In 2017, startups [Curadite](#), [HealthSaaS](#), [Health Technology Innovations](#) and [Solutional, Inc.](#) joined forces to form the [Digital Health Collaborative \(DHC\)](#), an innovation hub and inventor space created to support regional digital health and ‘Internet of Things’ (IoT) markets. [RiseCx](#) also now resides in the DHC. Through education, support and resources, DHC bridges key technology partners, healthcare systems and digital health innovator companies of all sizes and locations, and brings together key industry leaders to build innovative products and test the boundaries of health innovation.

Located in The Round in Beaverton, many agree the DHC is what’s needed to accelerate innovation and solution development in the local region, building on Beaverton’s strong foundation of technology through iconic companies such as Tektronix, Flir, Nike, IBM and others. The DHC provides opportunity to collaborate with leading-edge companies that have dedicated themselves to moving digital health forward and access to testing equipment and technical expertise.

The DHC looks forward to expanding its services, to include IoT product and technical support, a digital device testing center (mobile phones, handhelds, development software, etc.), events/conference opportunities, and access to server/cloud/software services and training. With the support of larger healthcare and technology companies, the DHC looks forward to creating an industry-driven healthcare collaborative to accelerate product development, partnering and market awareness across the Western U.S.