



## **We Connect The Dots Receives Community Empowerment Fund Award from Microsoft to Support Code-A-Thon Program 2021 and the Community Ambassador Program**

**December 1, 2020, NY, New York**— We Connect The Dots recently received a \$35,000 award from the Microsoft Community Empowerment Fund to support the upcoming 2021 Code-A-Thon and the Community Ambassador Program. The award will be used to offer at-risk youth the opportunity to engage in experiential learning programs for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM). The overall goals of the programs are to assist young people in preparing for entry into America’s evolving workplace.

We Connect the Dots was founded by entrepreneur and Microsoft veteran Laurie Carey to address the Digital Divide in communities nationally. Currently the organization works with students, in the Greater New York Metro area, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and looking to extend their programs into Chicago and Des Moines. The not-for-profit’s programs provide underrepresented populations from low income communities and others with opportunities to access and personally experience working in STEAM focused disciplines. These programs give students the skills they need to enter the work force or continue their education in STEAM related fields such as engineering, science and computing.

“We need to work together as a society to advance labor market opportunities to meet, complement, and shape technological innovations, “ said Laurie Carey, Founder of WCTD. “This partnership with Microsoft allows our organization to create positive systemic change by bringing awareness to the career possibilities in our future, and the skills necessary to engage in a modern workforce. Investing in highly underutilized populations transforms lives, their families, and the communities they live in.”

The Microsoft Community Empowerment Fund, created and managed by Microsoft’s Datacenter Community Development team, is designed to support community-led and prioritized projects, increase collaboration among contributors and award recipients, and develop ecosystems that help deliver common community priorities. Through this approach, Microsoft hopes to achieve long-term, systemic, and holistic outcomes in the communities in which it operates.

“Microsoft is pleased to partner with We Connect The Dots and support the Code-A-Thon and Community Ambassador Program for advancing the education and skills of young people,” said Gary McLoughlin, Program Manager of Digital Skills and Transformation within the DCCD team. “The Microsoft Community Empowerment Fund helps provide education and skilling opportunities that will ultimately build stronger, more resilient communities.”

### **About We Connect The Dots**

We Connect the Dots, a non-profit educational organization founded by Laurie Carey in 2013, seeks to use learning and coaching models to create positive outcomes across education and professional development communities and provide engaging workforce development learning experiences. We Connect the Dots’ unique, project-based, experiential learning programs for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) help students to realize that these disciplines are essential to their future and give them hands-on skills to compete in a modern workforce. We Connect the Dots exists in-concert with Ms. Carey’s for-profit entity, Nebula Academy (a DBA of Laurie Carey Consulting). Nebula Academy’s mission is to use cognitive learning and coaching models to create positive outcomes for organizations and individuals, where technology training and psychological safety training are blended to support increased learning outcomes that build capacity in an involving workforce. [www.wctd.org](http://www.wctd.org).

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