Dear Middle School Official:

SUBJECT: STEM teacher PD for middle school teachers (no cost, plus stipend!)

Do you want your middle school students (and their teachers) to be **excited about STEM and computing, practice technology innovation, and enjoy being physically active?** If your answer is yes, then please encourage your teachers to apply to one of the 2018 TECHFIT professional development (PD) programs that we are offering this summer.

TECHFIT is an acronym for Teaching Engineering Concepts to Harness Future Innovators and Technologists, and the name literally explains the objectives of this project. Our PD programs equip teachers with a variety of practical STEM skills and fitness experiences, so they can innovate and implement a functional, prototype, technology-based, fitness game (exergame) of their own design. Each teacher team then teaches their students the same things via an afterschool program or an in-school class, so their students can invent, program, and build their own exergames. In December, each participating school will have an opportunity to compete at the TECHFIT Showcase where the TECHFIT championship trophy is awarded to the winning team.

In the past four years, over 900 students and 78 teachers at 30 schools in 8 states have completed TECHFIT programs. Depending on each school's unique situation, each teacher team may adapt TECHFIT for their school using our standards-based curriculum models for afterschool or in-school.

Beyond sparking an interest in STEM subjects in your students, the TECHFIT program introduces students to tools and practices that extend beyond the program. For example, TECHFIT students can 1) develop interactive stories with Scratch for language arts and social studies classes, 2) create a NanoNavigator flowchart to explain how an automated system works in a science or tech class, and 3) design a fitness activity to get people's heart rates up in a PE class.

The following PD options are available this year:

1. **June 18-23, 2018 at the College of Charleston** in Charleston, SC
2. **July 16-21, 2018 at Purdue University** in West Lafayette, IN

The best part about TECHFIT is that there is no cost to participate other than paying for their own travel to/from the host location for the summer program and some food costs not covered by the program. In fact, <u>each</u> teacher will receive a **<u>$100 daily stipend</u>** for the summer training and another **<u>$500 for the program delivery during the school year</u>** as long as they fulfill all requirements of the program. Additionally, we will provide certificates of completion that qualify towards accumulation of **professional growth points (PGPs)** to support the renewal of their teaching credentials in Indiana. Each teacher team also receives a **<u>technology toolkit valued at $2800</u>** that they use during the summer training and that their students will use in the TECHFIT program/class offered by their school.

To be considered for one of the TECHFIT PD programs in 2018, teachers must apply online (https://techfit.tech.purdue.edu/Teacher_App2018.aspx). <u>Each teacher must apply separately</u>, and multiple teachers from the same school are strongly encouraged to apply. The online application system will be available until March 25. A review committee will evaluate all applications individually and as a school team, and the program manager will make the final decision based on the committee's feedback. Final decisions regarding acceptance into the 2018 programs will be sent to all applicants by April 25.

If you have questions or need additional information about TECHFIT, please visit our website at http://techfit.tech.purdue.edu or contact the TECHFIT project manager:

Alka R. Harriger, Professor
TECHFIT Program Manager (techfit.tech.purdue.edu)
CIT Dept., Knoy 251
401 N. Grant Street
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2021
Ph: (765) 494-2565 (messages only)
Fax: (765) 496-1212
Email: harrigea@purdue.edu