

New Charlotte Resident Wins BlkTech Interactive's First HBCU Social Impact Hackathon/Startup Weekend



From Rashaan Peek <rashaan.peek@citystartuplabs.com>
To <info@blktechclt.com>
Bcc <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Date 2022-04-01 17:01

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Charlotte Resident Wins BlkTech Interactive's First HBCU Social Impact Hackathon/Startup Weekend

CHARLOTTE, NC (March 31, 2022) - BlkTech Interactive hosted their first HBCU Social Impact Hackathon built by Lowes on March 25 - 29. Two dozen individuals from **HBCUs** that included—Alabama A&M, Grambling, Fisk University, Florida A&M, Johnson C. Smith, Morgan State, North Carolina Central University Fab Lab, **other institutions**—Bowdoin College, Central Piedmont Community College, Cornell University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and University of Michigan and **general community members** from around the county registered to spend the weekend working in teams to **design and develop innovative tech solutions to address the challenges of access to fresh food, education, or community violence.**

Five teams were created on Friday evening after a lively fireside chat with [Malcolm Xavier Evans](#).

On Tuesday, March 29, three finalists presented their pitches to a judging panel of five.

Community Violence

NCCC Fab Lab - Eagle Eye Wearable Security System (3rd Place)

Education

Randal Leath, Jr., Florida A&M University - Our House Neo Bank (2nd Place)

Access to Fresh Food

Imani Lockamy - A Tribe Called Juice - (1st Place)

Judges

Rob Cummings
Kimberly Evans
Jamerus Payton
Torrence Reed
Tanya Van Court

The event will be held at UNC-Charlotte and virtually. The first-place winner will receive \$5,000, mentoring to pitch and submit for larger national challenges and increase social capital with access to internships and employment with Lowes Home Improvement and other corporate partners.

"I am amazed at the resilience of our winners and the participants, says Rashaan Peek, director of BlkTech Interactive. She continued, "These teams were up at 9 am on a Sunday morning learning how to pitch from Henry Rocks [executive director of City Startup Labs]. They really wanted it."

The next HBCU Social Impact Hackathon is scheduled for November 11-15, 2022, to coincide with World Entrepreneurship Week.

=====

City Startup Labs (CSL), a Charlotte, NC-based nonprofit, is closing the entrepreneurial divide, where under-represented populations of African American millennials, as well as returning citizens (the formerly incarcerated) are not adequately participating in startup activity and business building. CSL creates this new class of entrepreneurs by providing a robust, accelerated, progressive, culturally relevant, and disciplined approach to developing entrepreneurial talent, new venture creation, and deployment.

BlackTech Interactive, the tech startup studio of City Startup Labs, seeks dedicated Black high-tech entrepreneurs who are intent on building scalable technology ventures, as well as employers intentionally looking for well-prepared Black tech talent.

Contact: Rashaan Peek 704.704.1825 | info@blktechclt.com

###

--



Rashaan Peek Director

Black Tech Interactive/BLKTech CLT

p: (704) 703-1825

w: www.blktechclt.com

e: rashaan.peek@citystartuplabs.com



 Create your own [Signature](#)