

## PRESS RELEASE

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## #BeSmartDontStart Anti Vaping Hackathon at Luther J. Price Middle School

Atlanta, Georgia– June 1, 2019– The Angels and Me Foundation, AngelsNTech, a non-profit mentoring organization established to Ignite interest, Innovate solutions, and Inspire young girls and support parents within STEAM fields, partnered with Luther J. Price Middle School in Atlanta, Georgia to take on the dangers of electronic cigarettes impacting middle school youth.

On Thursday, May 23, 2019, with over 130 students participating in the program, youth were able to tap into a social issue that is plaguing the surrounding community. By providing an early introduction to middle school students on the potential

lifelong addiction that vaping causes, students created campaigns and solutions for their peers and others. With a #besmartdontstart campaign, The Angels and Me Foundation, AngelsNTech were able to challenge youth to leverage technology providing a clear and concise message regarding improving awareness to the dangers of electronic cigarettes. This challenge was facilitated through an ideation, business development, production design, and pitch planning life cycle.

Kelvin Smith, Engineering Teacher at Price Middle School stated "This program is Fantastic, combining the use of technology with social activities to solve real world problems. Project based learned at its finest!".



With over \$700 incentives given, the final prizes were given to 2 groups; one developing a social media campaign with body art supporting anti-vaping and the other group designing an interactive recovery and support facility for youth battling with addiction.

6th grade winner Laniija Thirayong stated, "Before, I didn't care about vaping. People in my family do it. After today's Hackathon I feel more inspired and take ownership in developing a solution to get people to stop."

Official photos from the event can be viewed at in our <u>Anti Vaping Hackathon Photo Gallery</u>. For more information on The Angels and Me Foundation, Angels N Tech please visit www.angelsntech.com.

## About The Angels and Me Foundation, Angels N Tech

Angels & Me Foundation Angels N Technology (AngelsNTech), is a mentoring organization established to groom young girls and provide parents with resources to support their daughters' aspirations in all fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). As these fields continue to have a lack of inclusivity, our goal is to engage

minority girls from underrepresented communities, ages 11-18 to explore the fields of STEAM as career choices. Through teaching, hands on projects, career shadowing, mentoring, and fostering positive attitudes toward STEAM, we empower girls to reach their fullest potential and realize they can be anything they choose. Our motto is to Ignite a passion for STEAM, Innovate techniques of tomorrow while problem solving todays' challenges, and Inspire the next generation for change. Angels N Tech remains engages throughout the lifecycle of our programs with each girl and caregiver/parent to ensure that the natural skills, and curiosities regarding STEAM careers including using skills gained for entrepreneurship endeavors, are upheld until the participants reach 18. At that point the objective of guiding the participants into a career field within STEAM, whether through college, technical trade, certification or job readiness, will have been met.