TECH 2017
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

PRESS RELEASE

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COOK COUNTY S.D. 104 TO PARTICIPATE IN TECH 2017 AT ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOL

Cook County School District 104 in Summit, IL, has been selected to participate in the *TECH 2017 - Students for the Information Age* event on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the State Capitol Building. This is the first time the school district has been selected to participate in TECH 2017. Cook County School District 104 will join other teams of students and teachers from more than 90 schools throughout Illinois to demonstrate how technology is being used in the classroom to increase student engagement and improve academic achievement.

TECH 2017 is an annual event at the State Capital that highlights the crucial role that technology plays in education. Cook County School District 104 was chosen to present three different technology projects to policymakers, business leaders, and citizens. The projects are *"Learning with Games: Minecraft EDU"*; *"Educating the Community on Sustainability through the Web"*; and *"The Wacky World of Bees"*.

The technology projects focus on student collaboration and critical thinking. All three projects were created in the district's STEAM labs which promote the learning of science, technology, engineering, art, and math. The STEAM labs create a space for students to share their learning as well as innovative uses of technology devices, the internet, and digital curriculum.

The purpose of TECH 2017 is to raise awareness of the critical role technology plays in preparing students to succeed in today's world, and to show the need for increased funding for classroom technology. Students will demonstrate for lawmakers and the public the creative ways technology is being used to enhance and accelerate student achievement in Illinois schools today.

According to TECH 2017 Co-Chair, Tim McIlvain, "Personal devices, the internet, and digital content are the enabling tools of the modern learning environment, expanding the boundaries of the classroom while promising to transform all aspects of learning: teachers, students, and parents are provided access to tools and resources that promote accountability, communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking; digital resources and curriculum offer dynamic, engaging, and affordable content to enhance or even replace traditional print-based resources; and blended and flipped classrooms extend the classroom beyond the limits of the school day, promoting increased student-centered and self-directed learning opportunities that put educational resources directly into the hands of students."

TECH 2017 is a not-for-profit initiative presented by Illinois Computing Educators (ICE), and is supported by a broad range of education and business organizations such as CDW-G and Comcast Business.