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CSE-300

Stony Brook University Hosts its First Hackathon

Sponsors at Hackathon

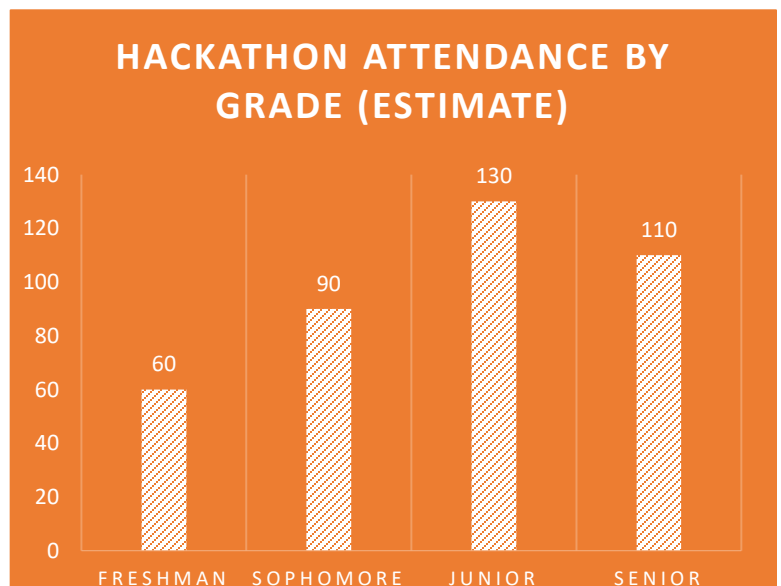


Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Stony Brook, NY: Stony Brook University hosted its first Hackathon ever on Friday, September 14th, 2018. The event attracted over 300 students from a variety of colleges from all over the area, but mainly from Stony Brook University. The event was sponsored by different companies such as Google, Scholastic, Softheon, and many more. Students got to work together in teams of up to four members to create software with the goal of the software solving real world problems. Some of these companies had their own problems that they wanted solved. For example, Softheon was interested in groups who were making applications which were related to health in some way.

The hackathon offered a way for students to not only gain valuable experience, but for recruiters to see the skills that many of the students at Stony Brook University had to offer. By having a hackathon on campus, this creates a direct line for recruiters to see students in action. Thus, students can showcase what they can do to the recruiters. Also, this is a social event which allows students to build connections not only with companies, but with each other.

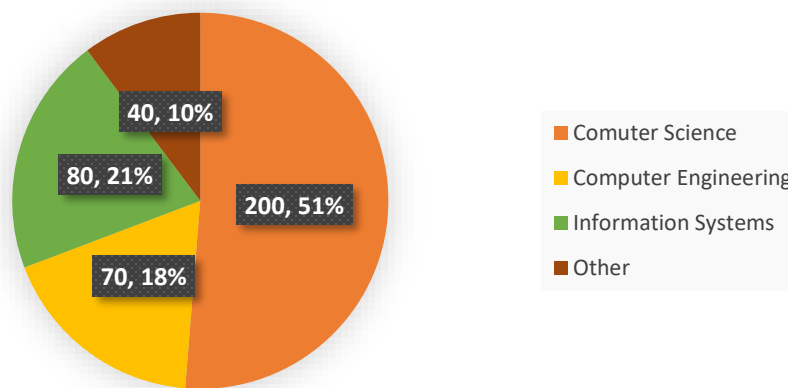
One of the students who attended the events stated “SBU’s first hackathon was a great success in my opinion. I got to meet many different recruiters, and the food they provided was also top notch!”. Another student also said “I’m really happy that the Stony Brook Computing Society was able to organize such a nice hackathon! I look forward to what next year’s hackathon is like”



In this hackathon, roughly 60 freshmen, 90 sophomores, 130 juniors, and 110 seniors attended this event. Considering the turnout of this event, it would be safe to say that the hackathon will return the following year with hopefully even more recruiters and participants. In addition, many students of different majors attended; although, the majority of them were related to technology, which is to be expected. Most the students were Computer Science students and second in the lead was Information Systems. Interestingly, an estimated 40 students attending were not in any of the technology majors. It is great to see that some students show an interest in hackathons even though they are not majoring in any 'tech' majors.

In the past, the closest hackathon to the Stony Brook campus was Hack@CEWIT, which was fairly close to campus but to get there you would have to take the bus or drive. This time, the event took place on campus in the university library which made it easy for any student to attend the event.

Majors of Students at Hackathon (Estimate)



About SBUHacks: SBUHacks is a new event that will occur annually. It is a 24-hour hackathon that takes place on the main campus at Stony Brook University. It is a new event that took place only this year. It is sponsored by Major League Hacking, making it an officially recognized hacking event. SBUHack is organized by the Stony Brook Computing Society and the Career Center at Stony Brook University.

Sources:

Sondhi, R and Demia, K (2018). *SBUHacks*. Retrieved from <http://sbuhacks.org/>

SBUHacks (2018, September 14). *SBUHacks*. <https://www.facebook.com/SBUHacks/>[Facebook Post] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/SBUHacks/>