

BCAUSEICAN

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BCAUSEICAN NEWSLETTER FALL 2024



BCAUSEICAN Conducts Bilingual Adult Technology Classes for Cool Spring Elementary and WETA

BCAUSEICAN taught technology classes for adults from the Cool Spring Elementary community and the WETA organization. The classes were taught primarily in Spanish. The students learned how to navigate several applications such as Google Workspace, Office 365, and also learned Data Privacy, Data Protection and Computer Best Practices. The classes were conducted from July 8-July 29, which consisted of (4) two hour sessions. All classes were taught at Cool Spring Elementary. It was a great experience for all involved!

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Help Us Empower Futures!

At BCauseICAN, we're on a mission to bridge the gap in tech education in our communities. Your support makes it possible for us to offer coding classes for children, technology classes for adults, STEM training for educators, and so much more, helping people gain the skills they need to succeed in a tech-driven world.

Donate today to make a lasting impact. Every contribution brings us closer to a more inclusive future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive in technology.

Together, we can create change. BCauseICAN, YOU can, WE can.

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BCAUSEICAN Launches Artificial Intelligence Classes to Middle School Students

BCAUSEICAN has launched an 8 -16 week Introduction to Artificial Intelligence class series to Middle School students at the SpringHill Lake Recreation Center. The classes were in partnership with the Greenbelt

Cares organization. The majority of students attend Greenbelt Middle School.

There were 13 students that attended and learned the following:

- **History, Concepts, Terminology and the Development of the Early Chatbots**
- **Created Decision Trees**
- **Explored Eviebot and ChatGPT (old vs new chatbots)**
- **Trained A.I. models to recognize and predict Pokemon Type**
- **Trained an A.I model to recognize text as "nice or "mean"**
- **Trained an A.I. model to recognize their face to unlock the phone**

The students overwhelmingly enjoyed the class and want to learn more in the area of Artificial Intelligence. BCAUSEICAN plans to conduct additional Artificial Intelligence classes this Fall for Middle School students.



On the Spotlight!

Jean Muskatel

Jean discovered BCAUSEICAN in May of 2023, shortly after retiring from a 36-year career in the technology industry. She has been an instructor for both SCRATCH and Python, and is a co-creator for our new Middle School course on Artificial Intelligence. She is ready to expand her engagement with BCAUSEICAN this fall as she takes on an instructor coaching role.

Jean happened upon the technology industry after receiving her B.S. in mathematics and Italian from the University of Michigan. Her first job in IT was as a help desk associate. From there, she got on the job training to become a programmer analyst. A few years later, she pursued a M.S. in Management Information Systems from the University of Arizona, and that gave her the foundation about the industry that opened up lots of opportunities for her.

Over her career, Jean held positions that included software engineer, technical project and program manager, and numerous software engineering leadership roles. Jean worked a few years in consulting for Booz Allen and what was then Price Waterhouse. The majority of her career, though, was at fortune 100 companies Marriott and Capital One, where she worked to bring technology business solutions to their customers. Jean had an amazing adventure of continually learning what's new in tech and helping to figure out how it could be used for business solutions. Technology changed dramatically over these decades -- like the email being invented and the internet being created!

Jean regularly found herself in the minority as a woman in Technology, especially as she took on leadership roles. She has worked to find ways to encourage those who are under-represented in the industry to persevere. She knows it's a win-win when those of us who are under-represented stay engaged and contribute to this industry. They need us!

Working with BCAUSEICAN aligns perfectly with where Jean's passions are. She is excited to see the organization grow and thrive, and looks forward to sharing the amazing world of technology with anyone who will listen.

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BCAUSEICAN Participated in AI Cyber Summit

BCAUSEICAN in partnership with the Prince George's County Tech Council was an exhibitor for the Prince George's Secure Artificial Intelligence Summit on October 5th, 2024.

BCAUSEICAN is currently a member of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force for Prince George's County and has launched an Artificial Intelligence Curriculum for Middle School students. Artificial Intelligence is one of the latest state of the art technologies and BCAUSEICAN has been a leader in exposing and teaching students Artificial Intelligence since October 2022.

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