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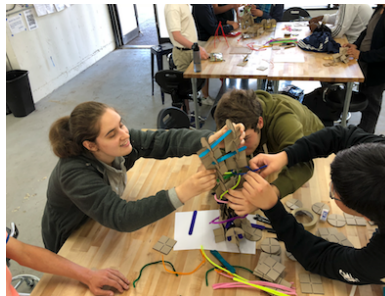
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NYC FIRST Runs Maker Program for Special Needs School, Enabled by Cognizant

NEW YORK, June 21, 2018 – NYC FIRST partnered with The Child School, a K-12 school serving special needs students from across New York City, to provide their students with an engaging “Design to Make” program from April through June 2018. The course was designed to expose students to a variety of technology and engineering skills, as well as post-secondary study options and careers.

Over the three months, students visited the NYC FIRST STEM Center on Roosevelt Island once a week for a one-and-a-half-hour block of time to learn about and practice 2D and 3D design and fabrication. Students gained a basic understanding of 2D design, 3D design, and 2D and 3D fabrication while learning more about the use of digital fabrication in the real world. During class, they were asked to take a design from an idea to production. Using advanced software to create projects, they then used digital fabrication equipment, including laser cutters and 3D printers, to fabricate them.

The program was made possible through the generous support of Cognizant’s *Making the Future* initiative. *The Making the Future* education initiative is a national program that seeks to inspire young learners to pursue science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines by creating fun, hands-on learning opportunities.



About NYC FIRST

NYC FIRST runs hands-on, project-based STEM education programs and robotics competitions for thousands of K-12 students across the five boroughs. NYC FIRST runs four robotics leagues for over 500 teams, serving 7,000 K-12 students across the five boroughs, and has run these programs for 18 years. NYC FIRST recently launched a STEM Center initiative, which brings together expert teachers and advanced equipment in centralized locations to provide critically important resources to underserved schools and communities, as well as groups underrepresented in the STEM fields. The sharply focused goal is to help unlock the creative potential of students from these groups. The first STEM Center was opened at the new Cornell Tech campus in September 2017. Students participate in school-day, after-school, weekend and summer programs and courses. Participation in NYC FIRST programs has a positive impact on the lives of students, increasing college attendance, majors in science and engineering, participation in internships, and involvement in community service. Please visit www.nycfirst.org.