



HACK THE NORTH

Waterloo, ON - Hack the North, Canada's biggest hackathon, will host its fourth annual event this weekend (September 15-17, 2017). Hack the North was founded and is organized by Techyon, a student-run non-profit organization, in partnership with Waterloo Engineering.

The event brings together 1000 students from top universities across 22 countries in the world including USA, Brazil, Sweden, England, China, India, and Algeria. Students collaborate and create impactful new hardware projects or mobile and web applications of their own design for a weekend at the University of Waterloo, all expenses paid.

This Friday, Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, will greet attendees during the event's opening ceremonies at 8:30 PM EST, emphasizing the importance of the event's role and impact in engaging youth in technological innovation globally. Following him, Balaji Srinivasan, CEO of 21.co, and Mike Gibson, investor at 1517 Fund, will have a fireside chat on the future of technology in Silicon Valley, Canada, and beyond.

In previous years, Vinod Khosla, Founder of Sun Microsystems (helped create modern technological infrastructure including the Java programming language in the 1980's), and Sam Altman, President of Y Combinator (recognized by Forbes and named "the world's most powerful start-up incubator" by Fast Company), have attended as keynote speakers at the event. Sam Altman first attended the event in 2014 and since then, he has become a regular visitor to Waterloo, recently accepting an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Waterloo.

1000 attendees were accepted from a pool of 6200 applications, from 72 countries around the world covering 6 continents. They hail from over 200 schools including Stanford University, University of Hong Kong, and University of British Columbia. During the event, students will have direct access to mentorship from professional engineers from some of the largest tech companies in the world such as Google, Facebook, Shopify, and Microsoft. The students will be in the best environment to explore their interests and turn their wildest ideas into technology that solves real problems.

Techyon will also host a panel on Diversity and Inclusion in technology during the weekend. Speaking will be inspirational leaders who have faced the challenges of being a minority in the tech industry and paved their own paths forward like Tracy Chou, who was one of the first 15 employees at Pinterest and Founding Advisor at Project Include, Cat Noone, Founder of Iris, and Tiffani Ashley Bell, Founder of the Human Utility Project.

On Sunday at 10:00 AM EST, over 250 student teams will present their software or hardware creations to a panel of industry experts including Charlie Cheever, Founder of Quora and Expo, Jay Shah, Director of Velocity, and Tracy Young, CEO of Plangrid. The top 14 teams will present to the entire audience of the event and media at 2:00 PM EST in the Hagey Hall Humanities Theatre.



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About Hack the North:

Hack the North is a student led event that brings over 1000 students from around the world to the University of Waterloo to collaborate, create, and bring their ideas to life in 36 hours. For more information, visit hackthenorth.com. Hack the North is an initiative of Techyon, a student-founded and operated non-profit organization.

Contact info:

Media that wish to cover the opening ceremonies are required to pre-register for the event by emailing press@hackthenorth.com with your organization name and full contact information of those intending on attending the event (name and phone number). Spots are limited for the press and are exclusively available for those that pre-register. After pre-registering, media will be able to sign in at the Registration Tent in Parking Lot B beside Engineering 5 on the University of Waterloo campus no later than 7:45 PM EST.

press@hackthenorth.com

650-785-3674