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Digital Harbor Foundation Selects Wallingford Park and Rec STEM Program To Participate in National Design Challenge

Wallingford, CT (March 4, 2019) - Digital Harbor Foundation (Baltimore, MD), the **Wallingford Parks and Recreation Department/Town of Wallingford and CT STEM Academy**, today announced their selection in the initial cohort of the Rec 2 Tech National Design Challenge. The National Rec 2 Tech Design Challenge will *create new STEM opportunities for youth in Wallingford to engage in maker and computer science education in the out-of-school time. This work has never been more needed or had as much of a potential life-trajectory impact as it supports a lifetime of learning technology-related skills. By joining in this national design challenge, the Wallingford Parks and Recreation Dept. will be among a vanguard of thought leaders pushing the envelope to increase access to transformational experiences. The National Rec-to-Tech Design Challenge is run by the Digital Harbor Foundation, and is made possible through the support and partnership of the following organizations: National Recreation and Parks Association, Schmidt Futures, National League of Cities and the Association of Science and Technology Centers. Additional National Rec 2 Tech Design Challenge sites include Miami, FL, Pittsburgh, PA, Standing Rock, ND, Cambridge, MA and Winochi, TN.*

Quote from Andrew McCoy from Digital Harbor reflecting the need for STEM and the Design Process

The Wallingford Parks and Recreation Department will be collaborating with CT STEM Academy, a Wallingford based program that has been nationally recognized for its work with youth. CT STEM Academy is a model program for supporting STEM learning through a wide range of community based events and activities, including evening, after school, summer camps, Family STEM Nights, academic bridge programs for at risk youth, and a World Championship qualifying robotics club and competition team.

Quote from Mayor William Dickinson or John Gawlak - Director of Parks and Recreation Department reflecting the need for enhanced STEM opportunities in our community and that we are honored to be selected.

In the coming months, the Wallingford Parks and Recreation will be hosting program design sessions and site visits from Digital Harbor Foundation.

For more information on current STEM program opportunities, through the Wallingford Park and Recreation Department, please visit <https://wallingfordrec.com/info/default.aspx>

For more information on CT STEM Academy, please visit www.ctstemacademy.org or on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @ctstem.