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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Connecticut Science Center Invites Girls Ages 10-18 to join them
Saturday, January 26 for Technovation
Free coding program teaches girls the skills to become tech entrepreneurs and
leaders while creating apps addressing social issues in their communities.***

Hartford, CT (January 22, 2019) – The Connecticut Science Center invites girls ages 10-18 to learn more about [Technovation](#), a global technology education program that tasks girls, working in teams of 1-5, with creating a mobile application addressing a problem in their own community. The [Connecticut Science Center](#) will be hosting a launch event on Saturday, January 26, 10AM-2PM. Through Technovation, girls learn the skills to become tech entrepreneurs and leaders while creating apps that can make a difference. Participating girls are a part of either the junior division (ages 10-14) or the senior division (ages 15-18). No prior coding experience is necessary to join and participate.

The global program officially launched January 7, 2019, and will accept submissions through April 23, 2019. Last year, 23 girls from Northeast Connecticut were part of the nearly 20,000 girls around the world registered to participate in Technovation across 100+ countries supported by more than 5,000 mentors. Participants develop mobile apps and startups addressing societal problems including the environment, elderly care and compassion, animal adoption, learning disabilities, equality, drug addiction, food safety, and more. Girls participating in the Northeast will be supported by the Connecticut Science Center whose employees are volunteering their time to mentor Technovation teams as they plan, develop, and build a mobile app company.

Connecticut Science Center Technovation Launch Workshop:

DATE: Saturday, January 26, 2019

TIME: 10AM –2PM

WHERE: Connecticut Science Center, 250 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT

COST: Free

REGISTRATION: Sign-up at <https://ctsciencecenter.org/tech/> to join Connecticut Science Center for the Technovation Launch Workshop January 26.

EVENT DETAILS: In addition to learning more about the Technovation program, the event will include a luncheon featuring Eileen Redmond, President of the Connecticut User Experience Professional Association (UXPA CT), as guest speaker. UXPA CT supports students and professionals who research, design, and evaluate the user experience of products and services in the greater Hartford area. Technovation is the world's largest free coding and tech entrepreneurship program for girls.

The Connecticut Science Center has recently been named the Regional Ambassador for Technovation and will be providing ongoing support for the program. "Technovation offers unique and impactful opportunities for young women around the globe. We are thrilled to partner with Technovation to make these opportunities available to girls in Connecticut," said Connecticut Science Center Vice President of Advancement, John Bourdeaux. "Technovation builds on our Women in Science programs, supported by the Petit Family Foundation, and expands our STEM offerings for girls by connecting them to teams and recruiting mentors with the belief that every girl can be a technology entrepreneur with the right resources. The Technovation participants will learn twenty-first-century skills that support the Science Center's initiative to spark students' interest in STEM careers and to close the gender gap in technology fields."

This is the ninth season of Technovation which will culminate in the annual Technovation World Pitch Summit in the San Francisco Bay Area August 2019. Twelve teams from around the world will be flown in and invited to pitch their apps and business plans to a panel of tech industry experts. After participating in Technovation, 70% of girls globally are interested in pursuing further technology-related programs. In the U.S., 60% of girls enroll in further Computer Science courses with 30% majoring in Computer Science in college, 65 times the national rate for US female college students.

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About the Connecticut Science Center: The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving more than 3 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries. Covering a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include an all-season tropical butterfly habitat, four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: CTScienceCenter.org or (860) SCIENCE.

About Iridescent and Technovation: [Iridescent](http://Iridescent.org) is a global technology & engineering education nonprofit that empowers underrepresented young people and their families to become self-motivated learners, inventors, and leaders. Founded in 2006 by CEO Tara Chklovski, Iridescent has had more than 100,000 children, parents, mentors, and educators participate in its two global programs: [Technovation](http://Technovation.org), the world's largest global tech entrepreneurship program for girls, and [Curiosity Machine](http://CuriosityMachine.org), a unique, open-ended, project-based learning program that inspires students, families, and teachers to create science and engineering solutions together. Through Technovation, girls work in teams to identify a real-world community problem and then build an app and a business plan that solves that problem. In 2017, Iridescent was co-recognized along with Technovation Global Ambassador Anar Simpson for Outstanding Mobile Industry Individual Leadership at the GSMA Women4Tech awards. Technovation was profiled in [CodeGirl](http://CodeGirl.org), a documentary directed by Lesley Chilcott.