

Learning to code with droids

Nearly 30 students and STEM educators flocked to Southern State Community College in Hillsboro July 25-26 to learn coding and electronics with R2-D2, the beloved droid character

Parker, Elijah Siders and Todd Guden, participants move, chirp and beep just like the droid in the sci-fi

Montgomery, an avid “Star Wars” fan, brought along several years ago.

“Being surrounded by individuals who are passionate about creating and building inspired me to continue my education,” he said. “Volunteering my time to teach others was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life.”

Parker said the event “allowed me to see a real-life scenario for my studies.”

“Not only did I get to see what I have been learning about come to life, but I also got to help teach other students about these skills,” he said. “During this trip, I realized that you don’t have to go to a large school to do awesome things. Southern State has provided me with a life-changing event that I never dreamed would happen.”

Parker also said the experience showed him that “anyone can participate in and excel in whatever they put their minds to if they have the right teachers.”

SSCC Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Erika Goodwin said she was pleased with the results of the event.

“I was quite impressed when I visited the computer science lab and witnessed the students and local high school teachers diligently working on their ‘mini domes’” she said. “Dr. Montgomery and SSCC computer science students provided a knowledgeable and enjoyable workshop for our local high school students and teachers. I am proud that SSCC can provide these opportunities and fulfill its mission for accessible, high quality education and community engagement.”

Fall semester at SSCC begins August 22. For more information, visit www.sccc.edu, or call 937-393-3431.