

## Stockton, University of Johannesburg Join to Teach Computer Coding Skills for Global Market

March Programs Kick Off Effort to Reach Children in South Jersey,  
South Africa, Leading to Future Careers in Growing Math/Science Field

For Immediate Release ; photo s of Chetty and Ackerman

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Galloway , NJ - Stockton University has formed a partnership with the University of Johannesburg to help teach students in South Jersey and South Africa about computer coding, a project that could lead students to careers in math and science and help the United States to close a gap of over a million computing jobs expected to go unfilled by 2020.

Amy Ackerman, associate professor of Instructional Technology in Stockton's School of Education, has partnered with Jacqui Chetty, a professor within the Department of Applied Information Systems (AIS) at the University of Johannesburg, to develop a series of events for Stockton Master of Arts in Instructional Technology (MAIT) students, alumni, faculty and staff, students from area K-12 schools, and area teachers and future teachers interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Graduate students pursuing Stockton's [Training and Development](#) Certificate for corporate and higher education learners will also participate in these offerings.

"We are working collaboratively to develop free, online tutorials that will demystify computer coding and enable more students to progress from problem-solving to coding and other careers in this fast-growing field," said Ackerman. "The \$11,500 program, with matching funds from Stockton's 2020 Initiatives program and the University of Johannesburg, also has the potential to reach teachers worldwide who want to utilize innovative but inexpensive teaching methods in computer science. All this fits into Stockton's themes of delivering excellence in teaching and encouraging global perspectives, with a current focus on STEM."

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Chetty's work focuses on cultivating students' computer programming skills as they enter the workplace. Her research addresses how to better prepare students for the challenges of learning computer programming through the use of innovative teaching tools. She has published conference papers and journal articles on a national and international level. Her involvement with Lego Mindstorm robotics, at the university as well as at the elementary school level, is fostering exciting developments.

Chetty will be in southern New Jersey from March 5-20, visiting schools including the Rieck Avenue School in Millville, Southern Regional Middle School, Tuckerton Elementary School, Egg Harbor Township High School, the William Davies School in Hamilton Township, as well as at Stockton. She will speak to students, faculty, and staff regarding career opportunities for pursuing STEM areas with an emphasis on computer programming skills as she conducts demonstrations with Lego Mindstorm robots. In some of Chetty's sessions, students will benefit from hands-on programming experience with Scratch, a free app that can be used for digital storytelling.

Students at the South Jersey schools are expected to have ongoing opportunities to use Skype and other virtual meeting tools to interact with students in South Africa, learning together and helping to develop more effective methods for teaching computer coding skills. The collaboration also will involve Service-Learning projects at both universities.

Chetty will be talking to future teachers through Stockton's Career Center and the School of Education. She will judge a high school computer science red tenth