



NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* KANSAS CITY
DENVER • OKLAHOMA CITY • OMAHA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 6, 2018

CONTACT: Victoria Rosengarten
victoria.rosengarten@kc.frb.org
816/881-2308

KANSAS CITY FED ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ANNUAL CODE-A-THON *UCM named Back-to-Back Champions, CSU Pueblo awarded second place*

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City announced today that the University of Central Missouri (UCM) team, Mules 2, was awarded first place in the third annual Kansas City Fed Code-A-Thon. This is the second consecutive Code-A-thon championship for a UCM team in the event.

“This year, we were thrilled to see an overall increase in participation again, an extended geographic footprint in teams and the highest percentage of female team members, at 24 percent,” said Brian Faros, Vice President and Chief Information Officer at the Kansas City Fed. “We look forward to building on this momentum and crafting a flagship event for university students throughout the region.”

Second place was awarded to team Thunderwolves from Colorado State University-Pueblo. Another team from UCM, Mules 1, came in third place in the competition. In addition, Team Lion from Langston University, Oklahoma’s only Historically Black College University (HBCU), was presented the University Champion Award. The award is given to the most committed and engaged faculty in the competition.

The winning solution from Mules 2 was Visual Dispatcher, an application that provides a comprehensive dashboard to address multiple flight dispatcher issues, including pilot sequencing, plane maintenance, and fuel logistics.

“Participating in the Code-A-Thon challenged me and pushed me outside of my comfort zone—not just in the sense of time efficiency, but also in regards to establishing and sustaining a comfortable and productive team dynamic. I’m proud of the work we accomplished and thankful for the opportunity to engage myself in this competition,” said Mules 2 team member, Mitchell Jurich.

The Kansas City Fed Code-A-Thon is an annual event to encourage and inspire computer science and engineering collegiate students. Since its inception, the event has tripled its participation. The two week event began on Oct. 19 with 16 teams creating software for 48 hours after being presented with a problem to solve by Kansas City Fed staff. Finalists presented solutions to judges on Nov. 1.

“I was thoroughly impressed, not only with the creative solutions our students produced, but also with their attention to design and architecture,” said Belinda Copus, UCM Program Coordinator for Computer Science and Software Engineering. “All of our teams demonstrated extraordinary grit and tenacity, working together as one mind even as the clock-pressure mounted.”

Nearly 50 percent of Kansas City Fed employees are IT professionals. Through Code-A-Thon and other programs, the Bank supports STEM education efforts and develop a talent pipeline. Several current Kansas City Fed employees are past Code-A-Thon participants. The 2019 Code-A-Thon is scheduled for Oct. 25 – 27, with the final round on Nov. 7.

As the regional headquarters of the nation's central bank, the Kansas City Fed and its branch offices in Denver, Oklahoma City and Omaha serve the seven states of the Tenth District: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, northern New Mexico and western Missouri.

###