

Hacking 'Ninjas' Represent High-Tech Future

TechPoint Foundation For Youth Executive Director Laura Dodds says Saturday's inaugural CoderDojo Hackathon at DeveloperTown in Indianapolis is one more piece in building the state's talent pipeline. She says the event is expected to attract 100 "ninjas" from throughout the state and believes participation could eventually grow five-fold. The foundation oversees 35 "dojos" in Indiana that provide high-tech learning opportunities for young students. During an interview with Inside Indiana Business, Dodds said the event will allow 10 teams to participate in challenges related to one of the state's fastest-growing fields.

She tells Multimedia Journalist Mary-Rachel Redman it's important to capture students' interest in high-tech early. "Kids don't make their decisions on what they want to be in high school, they make decisions in elementary school about what interests them and by high school, they've made those decisions," she says. "By college, they're majoring in the careers they want to be in, so we know that if we want to make sure that the state's economy is filled

with the talent that we need to be successful, we have to start first with those little Hoosiers and get them excited before high school."

CoderDojo Hackathon will involve students age 7-17 taking on bronze, silver, gold and platinum-level challenges involving Python and Scratch skills. Points are awarded based on difficulty of a given challenge.

Source: Inside Indiana Business



Image courtesy of TechPoint Youth Foundation

Holcomb Unveils 'Next Level Roads' Plan



Governor Eric Holcomb has detailed plans for the first five years of a 20-year program to improve Indiana's roads and bridges. They include investing about \$4.7 billion to resurface nearly 10,000 miles and repair or replace approximately 1,300 bridges. The Next Level Roads initiative also includes \$342 million per year to help cities, towns and counties pay for local road projects. The Indiana General Assembly passed a comprehensive infrastructure plan during this

year's session, creating what Holcomb calls "a fully-funded plan in place for the next 20 years."

The plan is funded in part by increases in dozens of taxes and fees approved as part of the infrastructure plan. That includes an increase of 10 cents per gallon in the state's fuel tax.

While there's a little cost with it, \$78 now they say for the average Hoosier driver," said Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma at an event this morning in Indianapolis, "some leave out the footnote that the average Hoosier driver pays almost \$500 in additional maintenance to their vehicles because of the condition of state and local roads."

Bosma joined Holcomb and Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Joe McGuinness at July 13 announcement. During the event, Holcomb said the plan will help Hoosiers get from place to place quicker and more safely with projects "literally connecting three different countries when it's all said and done."

Holcomb signed the infrastructure bill into law in April, at the time calling it "a truly historic moment in the state's history."

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"No other country on earth could have provided such tremendous opportunities and we should never take the privilege of our citizenship for granted." ~Jane D. Hull



Dr. Patrick Lau was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. after high school. He retired from the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System where he served as Chief Radiologist and moved to Florida with his wife in 2011. He was an active member & contributor of IACA and ICMA while in Indiana. Dr. Lau is also a scholar of art and literature and a prolific writer, he has been a dedicated columnist for Indy Asian American Times since 2010.

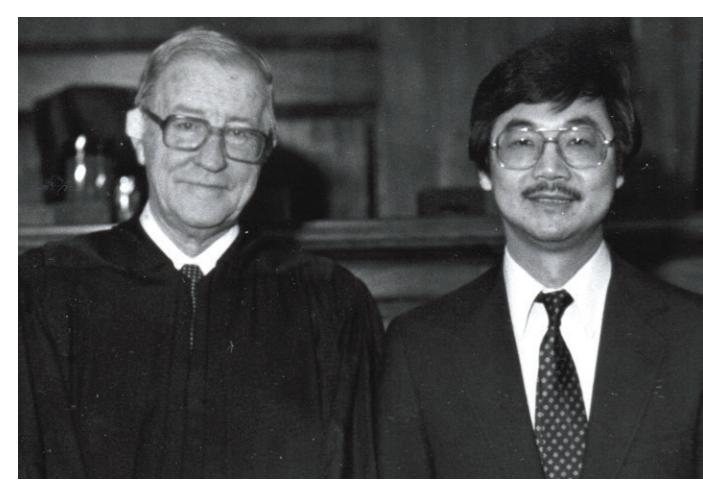
chasing for a long time.

Interestingly, my picture with Judge Lynch was published in the local newspaper recapturing the event. Overnight, I became a 'celebrity'. All of my colleagues, staff and residents in the radiology department as well as from other departments at the hospital congratulated me. Mark, a resident in obstetrics and gynecology, bowed with folded hands and addressed me as "Citizen Lau." There was a movie, titled "Citizen Kane," a 1941 American drama film.

Prior to my citizenship test, I studied very hard and memorized all the answers. My confidence was sky high, aiming for an A+. I went through hundreds if not thousands of tests at schools in Hong Kong, college and medical school in the United States 身經百戰, not to mention the medical board exams, and the certifying written and oral exams for the American Board of Radiology.

During the citizenship test, I answered every single question correctly and quickly, until the gentleman asked me the names of the two U.S. senators of Pennsylvania. I had no idea. I swiftly adopted 'plan B'. I apologetically informed him that I recently relocated to his state, and I did not know the answer but I effortlessly named the two senators of Illinois. He smiled. Perhaps I scored an A-.

On a beautiful, sunny day in early spring in 1986, my wife and I attended the naturalization ceremony. Seventy-four adults and eight children from countries all over the world were solemnly sworn in as U.S. citizens by Judge Frank J. Lynch. A picture of each new citizen was taken with the judge for the commemoration of the momentous day. This was, indeed, a memorable day in my life; and it was unmistakably the greatest milestone of my American dream, which I had been diligently



you can do for your country." I am honored to have dedicatedly served the Government of the United States of America, taking care of our veterans for 20 years as a VA physician; a recipient of the Secretary's Hands and Heart award twice. And I am extremely proud to be American.

Dr. Patrick Lau and Judge Lynch

Park to Bear Joe Kernan's Name

A four-acre park in a prominent city location will be renamed in honor of a former South Bend mayor and Indiana governor. A ceremony Monday afternoon will change the name of Viewing Park to Governor Joe Kernan Park. The park includes a nearly-half-mile-long nature path and is located at Northside Blvd. at Notre Dame Ave.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg will lead the ceremony, which will honor Kernan, a decorated U.S. Navy veteran who, among other accomplishments, served as South Bend Mayor from 1988-1997,

lieutenant governor from 1997-2003 and governor from 2003-2005. After office, he became an owner of the South Bend Silver Hawks (now called the Cubs) for several years.

Buttigieg says "Joe Kernan has served our city, state, and country with extraordinary distinction. He is among the most courageous, energetic, and decent individuals our city has produced. Naming this very visible park in his honor is a small way for us to honor his impact and invite future generations to look to his inspiring example."

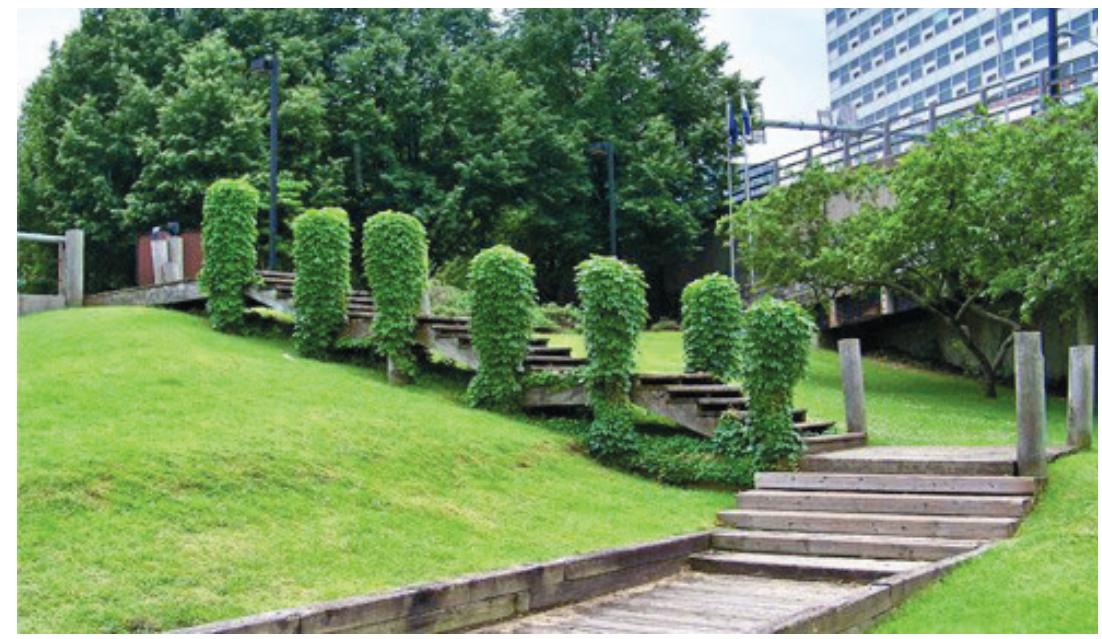


Image courtesy of the South Bend Venues Parks & Arts Department.