

Please join me to congratulate our MSCS student, Mr. Saheed Adepoju, who led his team (**team 9**) to win the “JP Morgan Chase – Code for Good” coding competition that was held on Feb. 19th and 20th, 2016.



Here is the news:

"The JP Morgan Chase "Code for good" is a program where one collaborates with other coders to develop innovative technology solutions for non-profit. The event is held in all its offices across the world and Houston hosted its first ever "Code for good" Feb 19th and 20th 2016. It involved over 45 students from different universities such as UT Austin, UT Dallas, Rice University, University of Houston and Prairie View A&M University. A total of 10 teams were built before the event. Saheed Adepoju (Grad student) of Prairie View A&M university was placed in Team 9 along side two other students, Vasu Jindal, UT Dallas undergrad student and Brian Vodicka of UT Austin undergrad. There were two challenges brought by two non-profits. The first was by Children's museum of Houston and the second was by Neighborhood centers. Neighborhood center is tasked with brining resources, education, and connection to emerging neighborhoods. Over the past two years their impact have improved by 40%. Over the last 3-4years they have impacted over 800,000 people. However, one of the most important tasks in reaching their goals is prioritization of the tasks they should fund. They needed a digitized process of prioritization over the use of a physical prioritization board which involved the use of card decks. They also wanted to reach more people to get their insights via surveys.

Team 9 had the smallest number of members. Brian is an iOS developer so he took upon the task to build an iOS application which allowed end users answer questions. Vasu is a web developer so he took upon the task to digitize the physical priority board and allowed end users move tiles interactively via the browser which mimic the current process. Saheed configured the Amazon Cloud servers provided by the event organizers. Based on the agreed architecture, Saheed built a RESTful NodeJS server which served data to both the the iOS application and the web application and used MySQL as the data store.

The event started at 2pm Friday and actual coding was from 6pm Friday to Saturday 12pm. Food was served all through the night and JP Morgan Chase Software engineers were available around the clock to provide technical insights and help with codebase and configuration. Sleep bays were also provided for those wanting to catch a quick nap. Various prizes were given out through out the night for team with most GIT commits. Two different teams won Chromecasts devices and Bluetooth speakers.

At 12pm, coding stopped and technical judging started based on various criteria such as Architecture, Code quality, teamwork and innovation.

Following technical judging, there was a presentation for 5 minutes per team and 3 minutes of questions. From each of the challenges, two teams were selected for another round of presentation and Team 9 was selected for this final stage. Team 9 won with each team member getting an Apple IPAD."