



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2019

**Every Alaskan Can Code:
Introductory Coding Sessions Happening This Month Across Alaska**

March 11 in Kotzebue, March 12 in Wasilla, and March 21 in Juneau

JUNEAU -- The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) are pleased to jointly announce three opportunities for Alaskans to learn how to code. These half-day events are free and open to Alaskans of all ages – no prior experience needed.

Participants will gain hands-on coding experience, and have the opportunity to hear from local industry leaders on the importance of coding as a pathway to employment. The events are happening:

- **March 11:** Chukchi Consortium Library in **Kotzebue**
- **March 12:** Mat-Su Central School in **Wasilla**
- **March 21:** Alaska State Museum in **Juneau**

Each event is from noon to 4:00 p.m. To participate, please register online at

<http://labor.alaska.gov/everyalaskancancode/>.

“To help prepare our students for a successful future, no matter what career they pursue, they need to learn basic computer programming skills,” said DEED Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson. “Learning to code unlocks creativity, strengthens problem-solving skills, and builds confidence. With today’s technology, learning to code offers countless opportunities, including cultural preservation and communication. I am eager to partner with Alaska’s families, school districts, tribes, and educational organizations to promote the importance of coding in our classrooms.”



What is coding and why learn it? Hear from the experts!

“The Department of Labor and Workforce Development is excited to work with industry leaders to prepare and connect Alaskans with viable employment,” said DOLWD Commissioner Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter. “Coding is a skill that can lead to employment opportunities in remote programming, cyber security, cultural preservation, and much more – all jobs that can be based in a rural community or performed remotely. This will allow Alaskans to remain in their local community while growing our state’s workforce. If you are interested in learning to code, I invite you to join us.”

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