



PRESS RELEASE

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Poway Unified Student Wins U.S. House of Representatives Congressional App Challenge

(San Diego, CA) – Mt. Carmel High School student Jaehee Kim was named the Congressional App Challenge (CAC) Winner by Representative Scott Peters. The contest challenges students to create and submit their original app designs using coding and computer science knowledge. Each challenge is specific to individual congressional district areas.



Jaehee, a junior at Mt. Carmel High School, developed an app called ‘Helping Hands’ for his submission. ‘Helping Hands’ is a student-to-student connection platform aiming to connect students that need subject-specific help to other students that better understand the subject matter. Once in the app, students can sign up to be a mentor in some subject areas and request help in others depending on their needs and capabilities. While researching for his project, Jaehee found studies reporting that over 50% of students feel lost or stressed out due to schoolwork and 25% reported that schoolwork is their biggest source of stress. He hopes to alleviate these stressors and ultimately increase mental health in students through his app.

The CAC submission process includes a video portion where Jaehee introduces his idea, demonstrates the app, and shows his coding work. [The overview of his creation can be viewed here.](#) As a winner, Jaehee is eligible to have his app displayed in the US Capitol Building and featured on the House of Representatives’ website. He is also invited to the #HouseofCode Capitol Hill Reception in Washington DC.

The CAC is open to students in middle and high school, and students can choose to compete individually or with a team. Students have their choice of programming language, platform, and project theme. The Challenge began when leaders from U.S. House of Representatives and Internet Education Foundation sought to foster an appreciation for computer science and STEM amongst students. In the first seven years of the Challenge, the CAC has inspired over 40,000 students across all 50 states to code for Congress.

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