

Volunteers Pull All Nighter at Philadelphia-Area College Hackathon

by **Christina Valecillos** — Posted on November 25, 2015

Story Highlights

- Lockheed Martin was the primary sponsor for the 2015 Android Hackathon Competition held at Villanova University on Nov. 7-8.
- Thirty Philadelphia-area college students participated in the Hackathon and were challenged to build the best possible Android application within 24 hours.
- Employees from Enterprise Business Services and Information Systems & Global Solutions volunteered at the programming marathon as coaches and judges.



Left to Right: Josh Gould, project engineer; Knute Leidal, EBS LM Fellow; Alaina Bradley, software engineer; Bill Andiaro, Program Management senior manager; Brian Kelly, software engineer and Nancy Prestridge, senior software engineer.

Lockheed Martin IT professionals from Enterprise Business Services (EBS) and Information Systems & Global Solutions (IS&GS) volunteered as coaches and judges at the third annual 2015 Villanova Android Hackathon held at Villanova University on Nov. 7-8. Thirty college students from around the Philadelphia area gathered for 24 hours to compete in the programming marathon. Participants were challenged to build the best possible Android application.

During the competition, students form teams to pitch their application ideas and build a working application within 24 hours. In addition to being the primary sponsor of the 2015 Hackathon, Lockheed Martin supported the event with eight volunteers who coached the students and judged the applications based on technical innovation, UI/UX design and business value.

Students presented applications that ranged in subject matter from a job search application, to a workout planner, a football first down marker, a pub search application and a “smart” grocery shopping application that keep track of the user’s pantry for more efficient grocery trips.

At the end of the Hackathon, a team of four students representing Villanova University and Drexel University won the competition with their development of a job searching application.

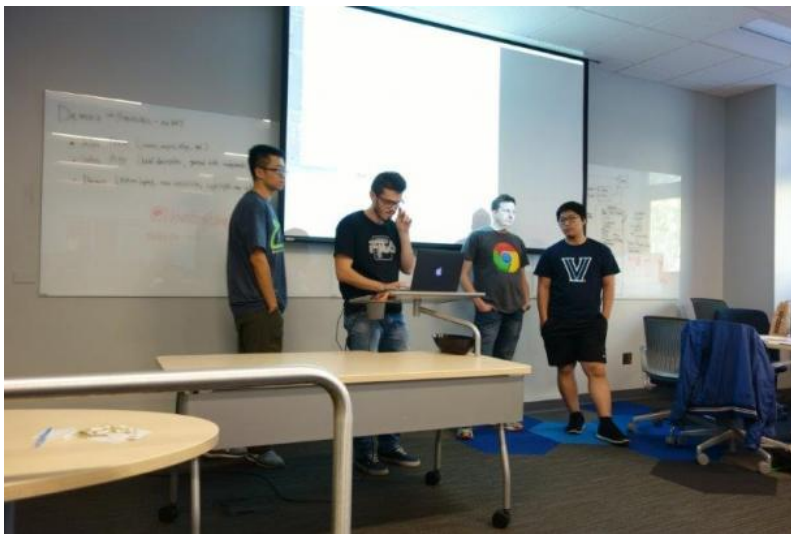


Bill Andiaro, IS&GS Program Management senior manager (far left) and Knute Leidal, EBS LM Fellow (right) pose with the winners of the 2015 Villanova Android Hackathon.

Similar to Lockheed Martin’s **Code Quest** [3] for high school students, Hackathons are geared towards college students as opposed to high school. Additionally, Code Quest typically only runs for a few hours and includes several challenges, whereas the participants in a Hackathon will continue to work through the night to complete one single challenge item.



Knute Leidal, EBS LM Fellow, kicks off the third annual Villanova Hackathon with a speech that inspired students to push themselves to code for 24 hours.



Students demonstrating their completed application after coding for 24 hours.

“The resources Lockheed Martin provided to support the event were amazing and helped make the Hackathon a big success this year,” said E.J. Dougherty, a mobile programming and entrepreneurship professor at Villanova University. “The students really appreciated the presence and interaction with the Lockheed Martin team.”

That appreciation was reciprocated by Lockheed Martin volunteers who left the event feeling energized and inspired at the dedication of the next generation of engineers.

“It was a truly uplifting experience to represent Lockheed Martin at the 2015 Villanova Android Hackathon,” said volunteer Knute Leidal, EBS LM Fellow. “We were able to gain a first-hand glimpse into the next wave of technical talent entering the workforce which left the Lockheed Martin team optimistic about our future.”



Lockheed Martin volunteers at the 2015 Hackathon (Left to Right) Knute Leidal, EBS LM Fellow; Bill Andiaro, Program Management senior manager; Alaina Bradley, software engineer; Brian Boerner, web designer; Brian Kelly, software engineer; Nancy Prestridge, senior software engineer; and Josh Gould, project engineer. Not Pictured: Ashley West, software engineer.