Charleston Learning Center
*Education, Training, Community*

**Everyday STEM Saturday**
**AI Ethics & Automation: Make it Responsible**

**Program Overview:**
Everyday STEM Saturday is a monthly, hands-on STEM enrichment program designed to help middle school students explore technology by solving practical problems, building prototypes, and learning through experimentation. Each session is designed for beginners, with no previous coding or electronics experience is required.

Students will use the Engineering Design Process (EDP), participate in Executive Functions & Mental Performance activities, complete a mini-challenge, test and improve their work, and reflect on STEM career connections. A small cybersecurity connection will be woven into each session to reinforce privacy, safe access, data protection, and responsible use of technology.

**Theme and Description:**
Students explore how automated devices use inputs, rules, and outputs to perform tasks. They will build a simple smart-helper or smart-room prototype and examine how technology-related decisions can affect people. Through fictional examples, students consider fairness, privacy, accuracy, and when a human should review a decision. The cybersecurity connection focuses on collecting only necessary data and limiting access to device information.

**Driving Question:**
Just because technology can make a decision, should it?

**Mini Challenge:**
Program a device to respond to an input, then review a fictional automated recommendation and suggest a safeguard or human-review step.

**About your presenter:**
Carla Ferrette-Clark is a retired United States Air Force Technical Sergeant with 20 years of service and a Career & Technical Education educator at Military Magnet Academy. She brings extensive experience in computer science, cybersecurity, robotics, STEM education, and career development, and has coached robotics and cybersecurity teams while connecting students with industry and higher-education partners. Her teaching philosophy centers on giving students opportunities to build, solve, communicate, and see themselves as future STEM professionals. Connect with Carla on LinkedIn.

**Vitals:**

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| Cost: | $50.00 | Difficulty: | Beginner (Ages 11-14) |
| Class time: | 9:00am-12:00pm | Computer: | Provided |
| Class length: | 3 hours | Scholarships: | Upon Request |
| Class size: | 10 students | | |

Location: 4 Conroy Street, Suite A, Charleston, SC 29403 | Parking: Charleston Tech Center Garage