



For Immediate Release

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**Calculus Roundtable launches Digital One Room School House (DORS)
partnerships in Richmond and Oakland, California**

Last week, the Calculus Roundtable launched several new Digital One Room Schoolhouse (DORS) partnerships in locations throughout Richmond and Oakland California. The initiative, OpenDORS, connects students in many of Richmond's affordable housing developments to world class, STEM and maker's movement-derived curriculum, global project based learning activities and professional science mentors, all tied to the Common Core and Next Generation Standards and measurable academic outcomes.

The effort is led by Jim Hollis, director of the Calculus Roundtable, a non profit organization providing alternative pathways to higher level math and science skills for students, particularly students of color. Hollis says, "Many children born in Richmond and North Richmond never leave Richmond or have experiences outside their communities. At the same time, the Internet and technology can offer these kids the world. It's our job to bring the world to them."

Five of Richmond's poorest communities will have access to online project based learning activities that make math and science real through hands on projects with students from all over the world. The project is supported by the City of Richmond's My Brother's Keeper Taskforce, County Board supervisor John Gioia, Richmond Youthworks, the Richmond City Library's Project LEAP, and the West Contra Costa School District (WCCUSD).

Todd Groves, WCCUSD school board President says, "This is a revolutionary program whose time has come. OpenDORS will allow access to high quality after school curriculum where young people live."

The program is housed primarily in community centers within five of the cities toughest public housing developments and will be connected with college and career pathways in the energy and telecommunications sectors. Community centers, located inside the city's public housing neighborhoods, will be revamped, mostly with money from foundations, state grants and donations from some of Silicon Valley's most prominent tech firms.

The centers will connect Richmond and some Oakland students, virtually with ongoing Calculus Roundtable student-led projects in Los Angeles, San Jose, Ferguson, Missouri, Hong Kong, Guatemala and Tanzania. Students will also work with mathematicians and scientists from some of this country's major universities and research labs, such as MIT and the Organic Chemistry Department at Northeastern University, in Boston.

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Over 300 students and their families are expected to participate in the pilot program during the 15-16 school year. The City of Richmond, through the Office of Mayor Tom Butt and through Richmond's Housing Authority led by Tim Jones, will also provide wrap around services to the families, grandparents and guardians of students in support of their learning and in support of families.

While the program is focused primarily on Richmond youth, several sister schools and locations around the Bay have joined the project. The Community School for Creative Education (CSCE) in Oakland will collaborate on the environmental science content for the 'elementary hub'. "We are all honored", said CSCE Director Ida Oberman, "to be a part of such a courageous and global undertaking, right here in our own backyard. When we work together, all students benefit."

Calculus Roundtable is a non-profit organization in Oakland, California (2323 Broadway Oakland, CA 94612). Serving 46 school districts, 4 county office of education, and the California Student Information System (CSIS). Calculus Roundtable is part of the "My Brother's Keeper" Initiative.