



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: October 27, 2016

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
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**MINER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF CIVIC DATA
HACKATHON: SYRACUSE ROADS CHALLENGE, POWERED
BY AT&T**

*City Partnered with Syracuse University School of Information Studies and AT&T
to Bring Together Technologists to Develop Creative Solutions to Road
Infrastructure Challenges*

Miner: Hackathon a Great Example of What Can Be Accomplished with Open Data

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner today announced the winners of the City’s Civic Data Hackathon: Syracuse Roads Challenge and presented awards at Syracuse City Hall. The City had partnered with the Syracuse University School of Information Studies (iSchool) and AT&T to organize the Hackathon and to judge entries.

“This Hackathon was a great example of what could be accomplished with open data and I appreciate the hard work of all our partners and entrants,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “This is the type of innovative thinking that will challenge the way cities tackle historic problems with creative new solutions. I am proud Syracuse is a recognized national leader for this type of civic progress.”

“The quality of the innovative solutions developed through this unique challenge demonstrates the vibrancy and talent of the Central New York’s technology, entrepreneurial and student communities,” said **Marissa Shorenstein, New York president, AT&T**. “We applaud Mayor Miner and Syracuse University for embracing the benefits of technology and data, while having the foresight to utilize these remarkable tools for civic and social good. AT&T is proud to have been part of this visionary challenge and looks forward to collaborating with the City of Syracuse and Syracuse University on future innovative initiatives in the region.”

“We’re pleased that we could partner with AT&T and the City of Syracuse to make this challenge happen, and we are glad that we had the opportunity to apply the concepts we teach our students here at the iSchool for the benefit of the community. I am thrilled that many of our students took part in the hackathon, and that our faculty took the time to serve as mentors to participating teams,” said **Elizabeth Liddy, Dean of the Syracuse University School of Information Studies**.

The winners of this year’s hackathon are:

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- **First Place:** Stephen Shaffer - Scout is a chat platform for community data gathering through Facebook messenger. For the Syracuse Roads Challenge, Scout provides a simple method to collect pothole information, centrally store and visually display the results.
- **Second Place:** Reuben Pereira, Roman Temchenko, Oleksandr Dzyuba – Dashboard to visualize the quality of streets and prioritizes where repairs are most urgent based on road rating and number of potholes.
- **Third Place:** Ishani Jariwala, Pankaj Bathija, Soham Khare, Shrutik Katchhi, Manas Sikri, Gauri Komawar – Dashboard that includes descriptive and predictive analyses of road data.

The first place winner received \$2,500, the second place team received \$1,000, and the third place team received \$500. Each of these participants were presented with a certificate from Mayor Miner at the ceremony today.

The Civic Data Hackathon: Syracuse Roads Challenge, Powered by AT&T, is designed to engage technologists, designers, developers, and anyone else who is interested to use their skills for social good and is one of the first times in the United States a municipality has led a Hackathon focused on road infrastructure. The competition, which kicked off on September 26, garnered 13 entrants.

Infrastructure has been a significant priority of the Miner administration. The Mayor has led efforts to use new technologies to improve how the City addresses maintenance issues. Mayor Miner received funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies to start an Office of Innovation and tasked the i-team with developing creative solutions to infrastructure challenges. Through these efforts, the administration deployed Street Quality Inspection Devices (SQUID) devices to do comprehensive analysis of road conditions. Another innovation is the ongoing implementation of sensors on water valves, which are able to sense leaks in water mains before they become catastrophic breaks, which will enable City workers to make schedule repairs limiting the impact on water customers.

About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T

AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. In 2013, more than \$130 million was contributed or directed through corporate-, employee-, social investment- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T's signature education initiative that drives innovation in education by

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bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring.

About the School of Information Studies

The School of Information Studies at Syracuse University (iSchool) is the original information school in the nation. It is a leading center for innovative programs in information policy, information behavior, information management, information systems, information technology, and information services. The nationally ranked school (*U.S. News and World Report*) has professional degree programs at the undergraduate and master's levels and research and professional degrees at the doctoral level. The school offers its master's programs in campus and online formats.

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