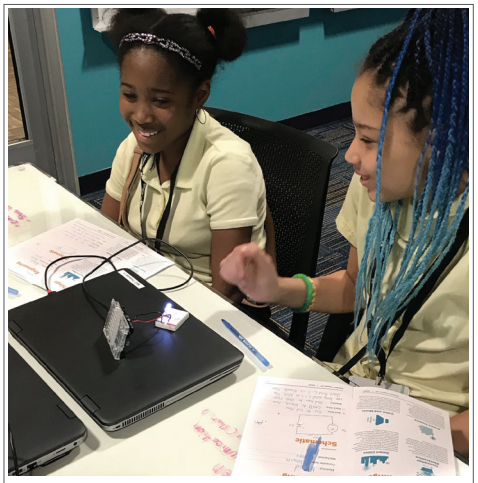
Qualcomm® Thinkabit Lab™

University of Michigan

MICHIGAN ENGINEERING ZONE, DETROIT

Detroit, Michigan



Students take part in one of Thinkabit Lab's many Arduino projects

"We are very pleased to be bringing the Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab to Detroit. Forging a partnership between Qualcomm and our Michigan Engineering Zone will benefit our community and touch thousands of young minds every year. With this unique collaboration, we are opening up more opportunities for students in southeast Michigan to gain exposure to STEM disciplines. We hope these experiences will spark a passion for creativity and problem-solving and will ensure an even brighter future for our community."

– Alec D. Gallimore, Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering, Richard F. and Eleanor A. Towner Professor of Engineering, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor

"Qualcomm is proud to collaborate with such a strong engineering institution as the University of Michigan and its innovative Michigan Engineering Zone. Together, we are bringing our unique Thinkabit Lab program to students and teachers in the Detroit area. We're excited to expose these students to STEM and other careers and hope to inspire them to become the next generation of inventors."

– Susie Armstrong, Senior Vice President, Qualcomm Incorporated

For more information or to schedule a school visit or educator tour, visit www.ThinkabitLab.com/U-Mich or contact Thinkabitlab@umich.edu.

Inspiring Detroit students to engage in STEM

Qualcomm Incorporated and the University of Michigan (U-M) College of Engineering, Center for Engineering Diversity and Outreach, and Office of Student Affairs have teamed up to provide 5th-9th grade students in Detroit and Southeast Michigan a Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab experience. This science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) engagement program will allow the students to explore concepts like invention and the Internet of Things (IoT). The new lab is located inside the Michigan Engineering Zone (MEZ), an innovative makerspace within the U-M Detroit Center downtown. In its first year, the program will engage 1,500 students from 20 schools in Thinkabit Lab's signature Qualcomm World of Work (QWOW™) career exploration activities and hands-on engineering projects. Ultimately, the Thinkabit Lab at U-M will serve 3,000 students annually, including youth from 60 middle schools in the Detroit Public Schools Community District. For many of these students, the Thinkabit Lab experience will be their first exposure to STEM careers and engineering activities outside of the classroom. As part of their collaboration, Qualcomm and U-M will develop activities to inspire teachers to integrate more STEM lessons into their classrooms. U-M also plans to use the new lab for hosting summer STEM camps.

The Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab is the combination of an engineering makerspace and classroom for students from all cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Qualcomm is focused on building the wireless world of the future and wants to show students that they can be a part of building that future. The unique, hands-on Thinkabit Lab experience exposes students to STEM concepts and careers that are essential to tomorrow's workforce not only at Qualcomm but in every aspect of building the wireless, IoT and 5G ecosystems. Since opening at Qualcomm's San Diego headquarters in 2014, Thinkabit Lab has promoted STEM career awareness to more than 12,000 students, teachers and parents; hosted more than 400 classes and camps; and collaborated with 15 school districts to enable schools to provide their own Inspired by Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab experiences. In 2017, Qualcomm announced the Thinkabit Lab Toolkit, a free, online set of resources that guides interested stakeholders — regardless of their location — every step of the way in building an Inspired by Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab of their own. The Toolkit also includes teaching resources for providing signature Thinkabit Lab engineering projects and QWOW career exploration activities. The U-M instructors have used this Toolkit in the development of their new Thinkabit Lab.

Promoting an inclusive and innovative community of service

U-M's College of Engineering seeks to improve the quality of life by developing intellectually curious and socially conscious minds, creating collaborative solutions to societal problems and promoting an inclusive and innovative community of service for the common good. Located in the U-M Detroit Center, the MEZ is a safe and supportive innovation space where Detroit students acquire the knowledge and tools they need to propel themselves to higher education and careers in STEM through challenging and exciting hands-on experiences. It is outfitted with computer labs complete with CAD software, a machine shop, robot testing area and collaborative workstations, allowing Detroit's professional engineers and U-M faculty, staff, students and alumni to provide technical training along with mentoring in an environment of learning, leadership, teamwork and fun. The FIRST Robotics teams of Detroit high schools utilize the MEZ space and equipment, and the College of Engineering provides training and mentoring to assist students in the designing, building and testing of their robots for competition. The addition of the 1-day Thinkabit Lab experience at the MEZ will help spark students' interest in STEM at a younger age and encourage them to pursue additional STEM activities.