

# TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

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## FRIDAY

JANUARY 1, 2016

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 1

[www.telluridedailyplanet.com](http://www.telluridedailyplanet.com)

EVENTS

## PINHEAD INSTITUTE OFFERS NEW PROGRAMMING FOR WINTER

*Computer coding for girls and Maker Wednesdays top new classes*

Statistics show a huge gender gap when it comes to computer science. Women made up only 26 percent of the computing workforce in 2013, according to the National Center for Women & Information Technology. In a 2012 study done by Google, the tech giant determined that women represented just 18 percent of computer science majors, down from 37 percent in the mid-1980s. And this is a huge reversal from the dawn of computer science, when women were the majority of programmers on early systems.

Because of this disparity, the Pinhead Institute is offering two new computer coding courses specifically for girls, as part of its new January after-school line up of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classes for kids. All classes commence during the week of Jan. 4-8.

"We know that to help close this crazy gender gap we need to introduce girls to computer science earlier, and in an environment where they take the lead," Pinhead's Executive Director Sarah Holbrooke said. "I'm thrilled that under the guidance of two amazing women, Program Manager Jessica Tenenbaum and Coding Specialist Alley Rubadeau, girls between fourth and eighth grade will learn to

Computer Coding for Intermediate School Girls will meet on Mondays at Pinhead HQ from 3:30-5:30 p.m., while Computer Coding for Middle School Girls will meet from 6-8 p.m.

Pinhead is rounding out its weekly schedule with the following offerings:

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**TUESDAYS:** Pinhead's ever-popular Mad Labs series, offering hands-on science experiences for kids kindergarten through fourth grades, returns to Pinhead HQ on Tuesdays throughout the winter, and will coordinate with early release Tuesdays as necessary.

**WEDNESDAYS:** With a nod to the growth of the Maker Movement and the DIY mindset it espouses, Pinhead is excited to offer Maker Wednesdays for students in fourth through seventh grades, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Kids will etch glass, make their own comic books, disassemble and repurpose electronics and more.

"Science isn't just something that happens between your ears – it's also something you get your hands dirty with," said Hol-

## Pinhead Institute

brooke.

**THURSDAYS:** Now in its second year, Pinhead's Thursday afternoon 3D Modeling & Printing for Kids program has been newly refined to offer students in second through 12th grades strong foundations in computer aided design. Older students will work with Solidworks, the industry-leading 3D software used by nearly 3 million engineers and designers at 220,000 organizations worldwide, while younger students will have the option to work with simpler programs.

**FRIDAYS:** Finally, in response to community demand, Pinhead has brought back its sold-out Lego Robots Junior program for kids ages 5 to 8 on Friday afternoons, 3:30 to 5 p.m. The class offers our youngest Pinheads a chance to get acquainted with

Lego Mindstorms robots and their components like motors, sensors and gears in preparation for joining our First Lego League teams when they meet the age requirements.

"Once parents of school-aged children have made their New Year's resolutions, we're hoping their next step will be to enroll their kids in one of our fun and enriching hands-on after-school programs," Holbrooke said.

"Pinhead is launching a new registration system for 2016, and our resolution is to make STEM transformative, fun and appealing to kids of every age," she added.

For more information on these or other Pinhead Institute programs, please visit [pinheadinstitute.org](http://pinheadinstitute.org) or call 970-369-5190.