

GirlCode, AWS partnership to upskill women on cloud computing

The GirlCode's Software Development Learnership - a new free joint learnership training programme created by GirlCode in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) - will help 30 unemployed women prepare for careers in tech and IT. A proud advocate of women, GirlCode and AWS have worked together consistently in recent years, helping to realise their joint mission of fostering female talent in the tech space.



GirlCode's Software Development Learnership programme commenced on 1 April 2021 and it was official launch in Midrand, on 30 April 2021. The learnership programme will run for a period of 12 months and comes at no cost to participating learners.

The learners will attend daily work simulated sessions at the GirlCode Campus in Midrand, the focus being an introduction to cloud-based computing and AWS tools. They will be working on practical projects as we as learn and practice with relevant tech and tools. This will afford the learners hands-on opportunities to experience real-life operations and agility of projects, working in teams in a business environment, while also acquiring soft skills to prepare them for the world of work.

In an attempt to close the loop between training and employment, the last leg of the programme will focus 'career skills' such as preparing for interviews, advice on navigating salary discussions, guidance on developing one's personal brand, and assistance with CVs, covering letters and learners' LinkedIn profiles



SKILLS TRAINING

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High demand

GirlCode received almost 50,000 applications for the learnership programme, attesting to the profound need for such programmes to accelerate youth skills development. Nearly 20,000 women took the aptitude test, from which numerous participants acquired test scores of over 85%. “The sad reality of this seeming great outcome is that there are brilliant young minds sitting at home without work and study prospects. Also important is that, this in fact means that organisations are forfeiting the potential IP that could be creating innovative solutions for the industry and our country as a result,” said GirlCode chief executive officer, Zandile Mkhwanazi.

“Given the result of the applications, this is a positive step in the right direction to address the tech skills gap in South Africa when it comes to women software developers. We are excited to work with AWS, as GirlCode aims to upskill 10 million women over the next 10 years. GirlCode will continue seeking more opportunities to empower more girls,” said Mkhwanazi.

Work experience

What makes this programme particularly effective is that GirlCode has partnered with tech start-ups to ensure that learners can gain work experience following their learnership. Participating start-ups will also benefit from having additional resources on their projects, without incurring additional operation costs or the burden of sourcing and recruiting prospect candidates.

“GirlCode would like to challenge more tech companies to consider partnering with them and other NPOs collaborate on solutions that will close the obvious gaps that exist in the tech space, and to stimulate the ideas of minds that are eager to learn and work,” said Mkhwanazi.

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