OU’s ‘GrizzHacks 3’ to bring together innovators for 24-hour hackathon

Teams of forward-thinking innovators will come together from Sept. 22-23 at Oakland University for GrizzHacks 3, a 24-hour hackathon that provides an opportunity for students to create incredible hardware and software projects from the bottom up.

“GrizzHacks is a great opportunity for students to test out ideas for websites, mobile apps, embedded systems projects, and more,” said Emma. From Sept. 22-23, Oakland University will host GrizzHacks 3, a 24-hour hackathon that provides an opportunity for students to create incredible hardware and software projects from the bottom up.
Atkinson, GrizzHacks 3 lead organizer and president of the League of Engineers and Computer Scientists (LECS), the largest engineering club at OU.

The free event, which takes place from 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23 in the Engineering Center on OU’s main campus, is open to all undergraduate students, high school students, middle school students, and those who have graduated within the last calendar year. No previous programming/engineering experience is required.

“If you can dream it, you can build it,” Atkinson said.

Over the course of a weekend, attendees will be able to collaborate with other students to build a software application or hardware project. There will be workshops to learn web development, iOS or Android mobile development, and more. Students will also be able to interact with engineers from sponsoring companies, network for a job or internship, or win prizes.

“Every student who attends a hackathon leaves with a wealth of new knowledge, regardless of what they came with,” Atkinson said. “Bring an open mind and be ready to learn, we’ll help you through the rest.”

Students are not allowed to begin progress on their hack before GrizzHacks. However, the use of third-party APIs and libraries is allowed and encouraged. Attendees are also encouraged to be familiar with the tools they plan to use at the event, such as a specific programming language, as long as it is not part of their hack.

According to Atkinson, a panel of judges will assess each team’s hacks based on creativity, difficulty, design and potential. Ten hacks will be selected for a demonstration in front of the entire GrizzHacks audience for a final round of judging.

“This event is not limited to engineers and computer scientists though,” she said. “Creative minds from a multitude of backgrounds can be found at GrizzHacks.”

Teams can range from one to four people. While food will be supplied throughout the event, participants must bring their student ID and provide their own toiletries. Attendees may also
choose to bring their own hardware, although some hardware will be available at the event.

To learn more about GrizzHacks, email the event organizers at team@grizzhacks.com or join the LECS GrizzOrgs page. To sign up for the event, visit grizzhacks.com.