

## **We Connect The Dots Awarded \$10,000 Autism Speaks NXT GEN Coders Program Grant**

**Westbury, NY – January 24, 2019** – We Connect The Dots, a national educational organization headquartered in Westbury, NY, announced that it has been awarded a \$10,000 Autism Speaks and GameStop NXT GEN Coders Program grant for its submission titled: *Unity 3D Digital Game Design Workforce Experience Program*. The grant is a one-time award with funds to be used to support staff and curriculum modifications specific to the winning program's budget.

Autism Speaks provides grants for entities that teach digital literacy and critical coding and computer programming skills to people of all ages with autism. Grant applications were received from small community-based coding academies, not-for-profit autism service providers and large universities across the country. Volunteer reviewers from within the autism community selected We Connect The Dots as one of 14 grant recipients.

We Connect The Dots is a not-for-profit that works in multiple states seeking to bring awareness to the career opportunities growing today and coming in the future, with skills-based training to ensure all students can compete and succeed in careers across STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) industries.

“At We Connect The Dots, our programs are focused on serving students and young adults by providing free services to those with disadvantaged backgrounds. Our programs are highly structured, well implemented, individualized and offer one-on-one and small group support. The funds from Autism Speaks will allow us to focus on STEAM programs specifically for individuals on the Autism Spectrum. We know that for this population, individualized education is critical and this will be a major part of this effort,” said Laurie Carey, We Connect The Dots Founder.

“It is an honor to have We Connect The Dots as one of the 14 award recipients in our first ever Autism Speaks NXT GEN Coders Program Powered by GameStop grant. The partnership between us will serve to enhance lives today and will accelerate a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow and we look forward to following the progress of the We Connect the Dots program in the months ahead,” said Autism Speaks Grant Director Serena Selkin.

For more information about We Connect The Dots and its educational programs, visit: [we-connect-the-dots.org](http://we-connect-the-dots.org)