OpenLearning Launches First-of-its-Kind Computer Science Initiative: CS101
New micro-credentials to bridge computer science skills gap for working professionals

Sydney, 27 July 2021 - Global lifelong learning platform and education technology company OpenLearning has launched a new computer science program, CS101, to enable working professionals to gain in-depth knowledge and skills in computer science. CS101 is designed by industry and for industry, bringing together leading technology companies, computer scientists and learning designers to create a one-of-a-kind online program that makes computer science accessible to everyone.

The new accelerated program, comprising up to three online short courses, each of which can be completed in just 12 weeks part-time, has been established with the goal of equipping working professionals with the core theoretical and practical skills in computer science so they are able to 'learn how to learn' and adapt to new technologies.

With no prerequisites required and aligned to the Australian Qualifications Framework to facilitate recognition of prior learning, the three courses that make up the program are designed to be taken sequentially:

- *CS101: Programming and Computational Thinking*
- *CS101: Data Science and Algorithms*
- *CS101: Software Engineering and Cloud Computing*

The first course will cover a number of foundational skills, including computational thinking, complex problem solving, programming, logic, algorithms, automation, micro-processors, professional practice and ethics. Upon successful completion, learners will receive an OpenCred in the form of a digital credential that includes both a badge and a certificate that can be shared on social media.

Research has shown that the technology workforce in Australia is forecast to grow two times faster than any other occupation, by 2024 there will be 809,000 technology workers, that is an additional 113,000 workers from 2019. Within this sector, over 300,000 technology professionals will require knowledge in computer science. (Source: 1. Australian Government Labour Market Portal, 2. Deloitte ACS Australia's Digital Pulse 2020)

CS101 is able to bridge the skills gap in the digital economy through its close partnerships with innovative technology companies, who have validated the courses, and OpenLearning's own in-house expertise. For learners looking to specialise in specific topics, OpenLearning also considers these courses as a great opportunity to open up pathways for further study with universities and higher education providers.

Designed by OpenLearning Founder and CTO, David Collien, and in collaboration with Computer Scientists, Software Engineers and Learning Designers, CS101 is built on OpenLearning's lifelong learning platform and social-constructivist approach to deliver a transformative learning experience. In addition to activity and project-based learning, CS101 will have a vibrant community of practice facilitated by computer scientists and virtual small weekly consultation groups for learners to exchange ideas and solve problems together.

OpenLearning Founder and CEO, Adam Brimo, said: "Our society is increasingly dependent on technology and many of the new jobs being created today require, or benefit from, an understanding of computer science. CS101 will bridge the computer science skills gap and is inline with OpenLearning's focus on delivering transformative education in collaboration with educators and industry."

The first cohort for *CS101: Programming and Computational Thinking* commences on the 18th of October 2021 and is now open for enrolment. No technical experience is required.

About OpenLearning:

OpenLearning Limited (ASX:OLL) is a higher education technology company that provides a scalable online learning platform to education providers and a global marketplace of world-class courses for learners of all levels.

OpenLearning's platform enables the delivery of project-based, social learning to encourage interaction among users and foster a community of collaborative learners. The Company's unique service provides a complete learning environment for all types of online education - from short courses through to micro- credentials and online degrees.

With more than 2.9m learners worldwide across over thousands of courses provided by 184 education providers, OpenLearning is at the forefront of a new wave of online education delivery.
To learn more, please visit: https://solutions.openlearning.com/

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