As part of the international “Hour of Code” event, USU Southwest Huntsman School of Business professor Kristal Ray led a basic computer coding class for 100 third- and fifth-grade students at Manti Elementary in Manti, Utah. Combining her computer science background with business and marketing expertise, Professor Ray taught students the importance of technology in our adapting world.

“The programmers of tomorrow are the wizards of the future. Computer programming is an incredibly empowering skill to learn. It lets an individual take an idea from a concept to a creation that can be put in everyone’s hands,” Professor Ray said.

Professor Ray believes that “coding is the backbone of our interconnected world. Not only does it offer future job potential, but coding also strengthens problem-solving and analytical skills and prepares students to compete in the areas of science and engineering.”

Professor Ray works with Huntsman students every day to ensure that they are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow. Recent graduate, Dallin Fukui, attributes the skills he learned in Professor Ray’s Marketing and Sales Technology class to his new sales career with Nalco in Midland, Texas.

“I was really able to seal the deal with Nalco when I told them I was already familiar with Salesforce.com, a CRM (business software) Professor Ray had us explore in class,” Fukui said. “Nalco uses Salesforce every day, and they were very impressed that I already had experience with it.”
Professor Ray states that “technology companies and businesses are desperately seeking candidates with digital skills. To be successful and competitive in business in the future, business people will need to learn about technology and embrace it.”

To learn more about the “Hour of Code” event, go here.