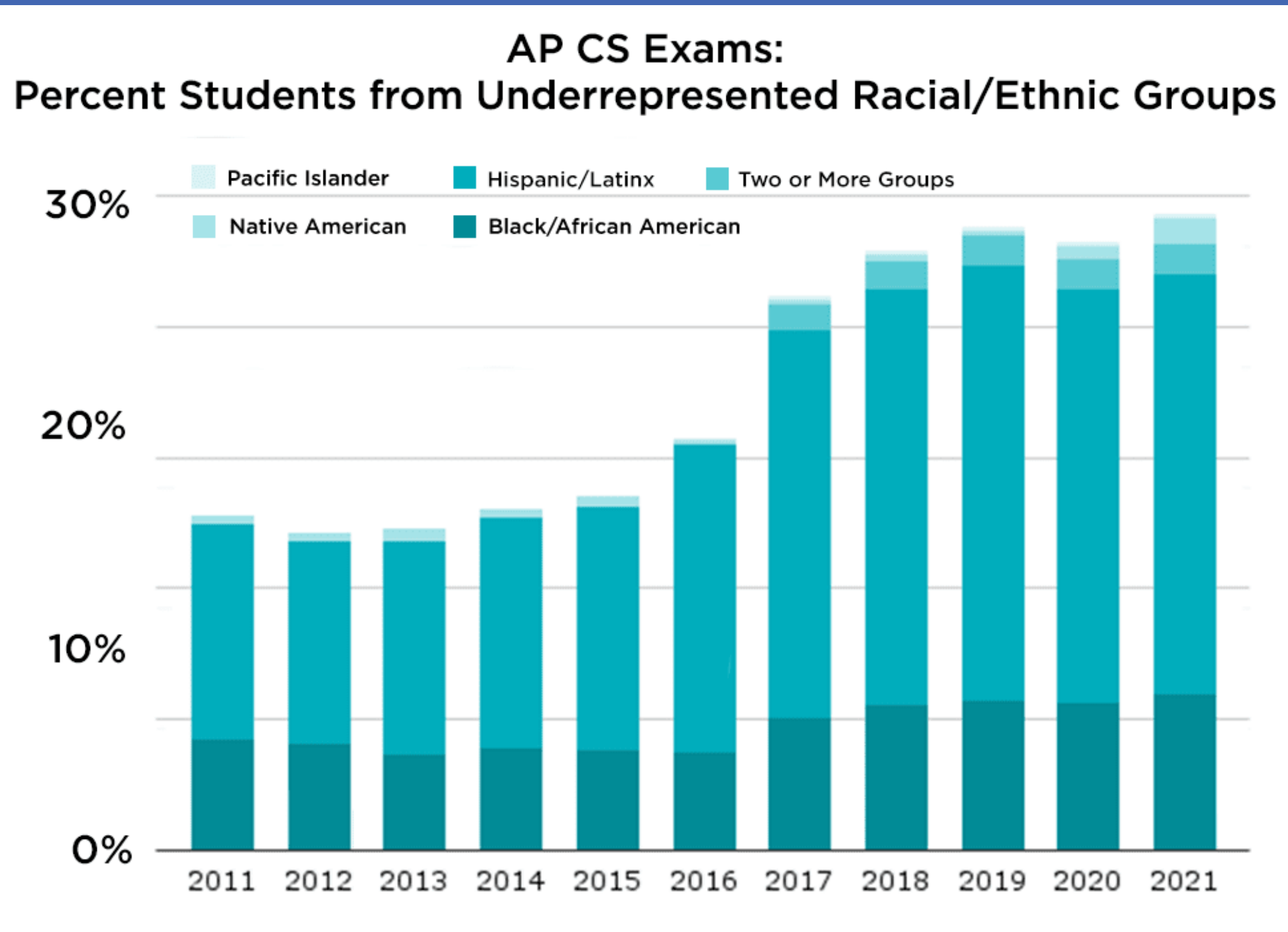# Game Design for Social/Emotional Learning

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Introduction:

CS can be a hard field to be involved in, especially with a lack of resources or support. Even the slightest bit of encouragement can make a difference in your future. The Be. Org's summer program: Be Virtual looks to teach high school students about game design, utilizing Unity's software along with C# basics. They look to build an interest in STEM careers among the Baltimore youth while teaching them essential professional skills as they work on a team project.

AP CS Exams:
Percent Students from Underrepresented Racial/Ethnic Groups

https://code.org/diversity

Discussion:

One's environment can play a huge role in their future. Historically, less than 30% of AP CS students are from underrepresented backgrounds, but why is that? Should schools put more effort into CS education and encourage their students to take an interest in tech?

There is often a negative stigma around CS, which can discourage students from studying it. They may think it is too difficult or that they could not succeed in the field. There also could be a lack of knowledge on what CS professionals do.

Site Information:

Name of Site: The Renaissance Academy

Address: 1301 McCulloh Street Baltimore MD 21217

Your supervisor: Shawnice Jackson

The site mission: encouraging education and career readiness for kids in the Baltimore area.

The particular goals of the site you were at: introducing students to CS, especially how game design can be used to promote social/emotional learning

Issues Confronting Site:

- lack of technology

- constant updating of plans or lessons

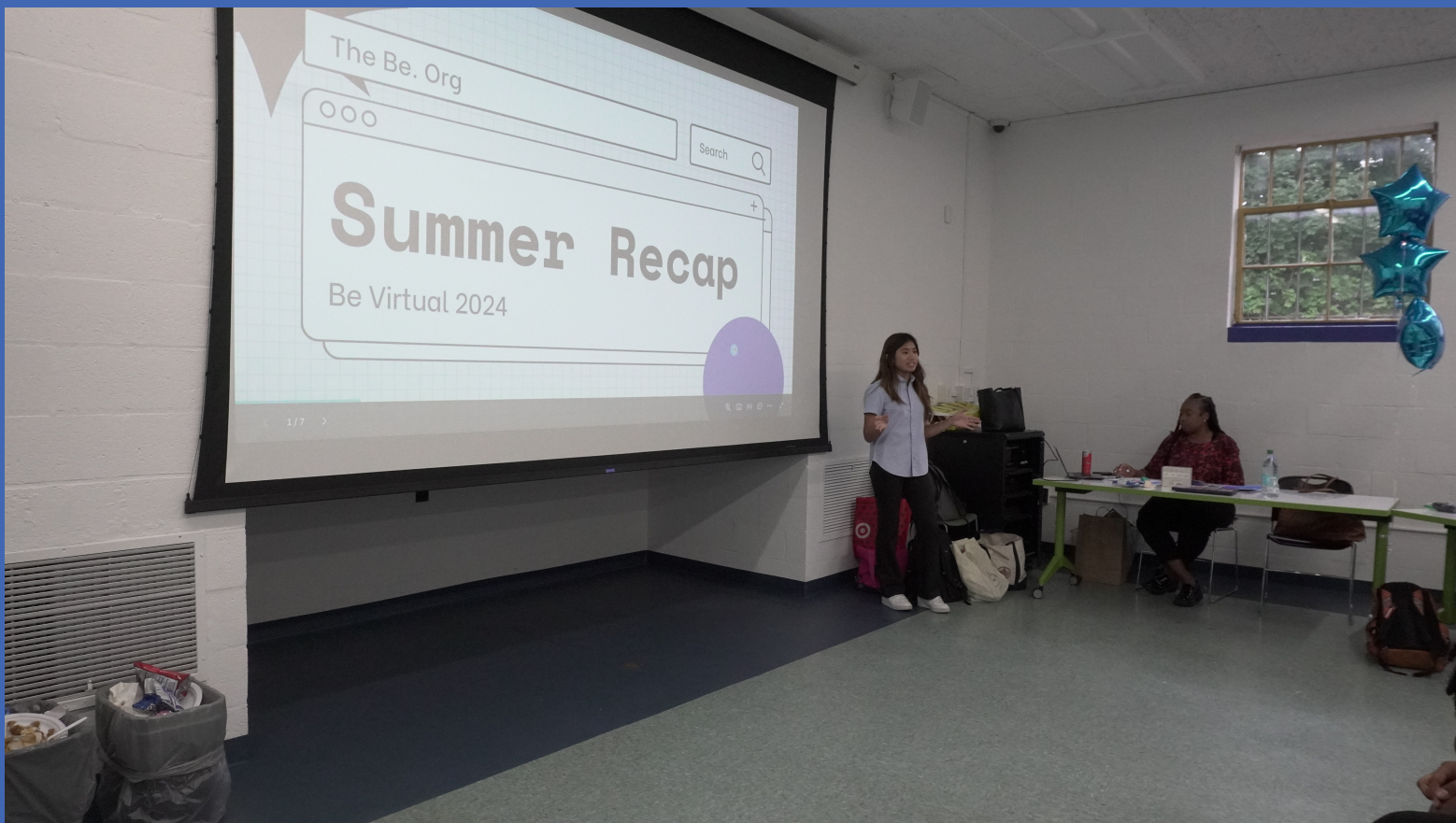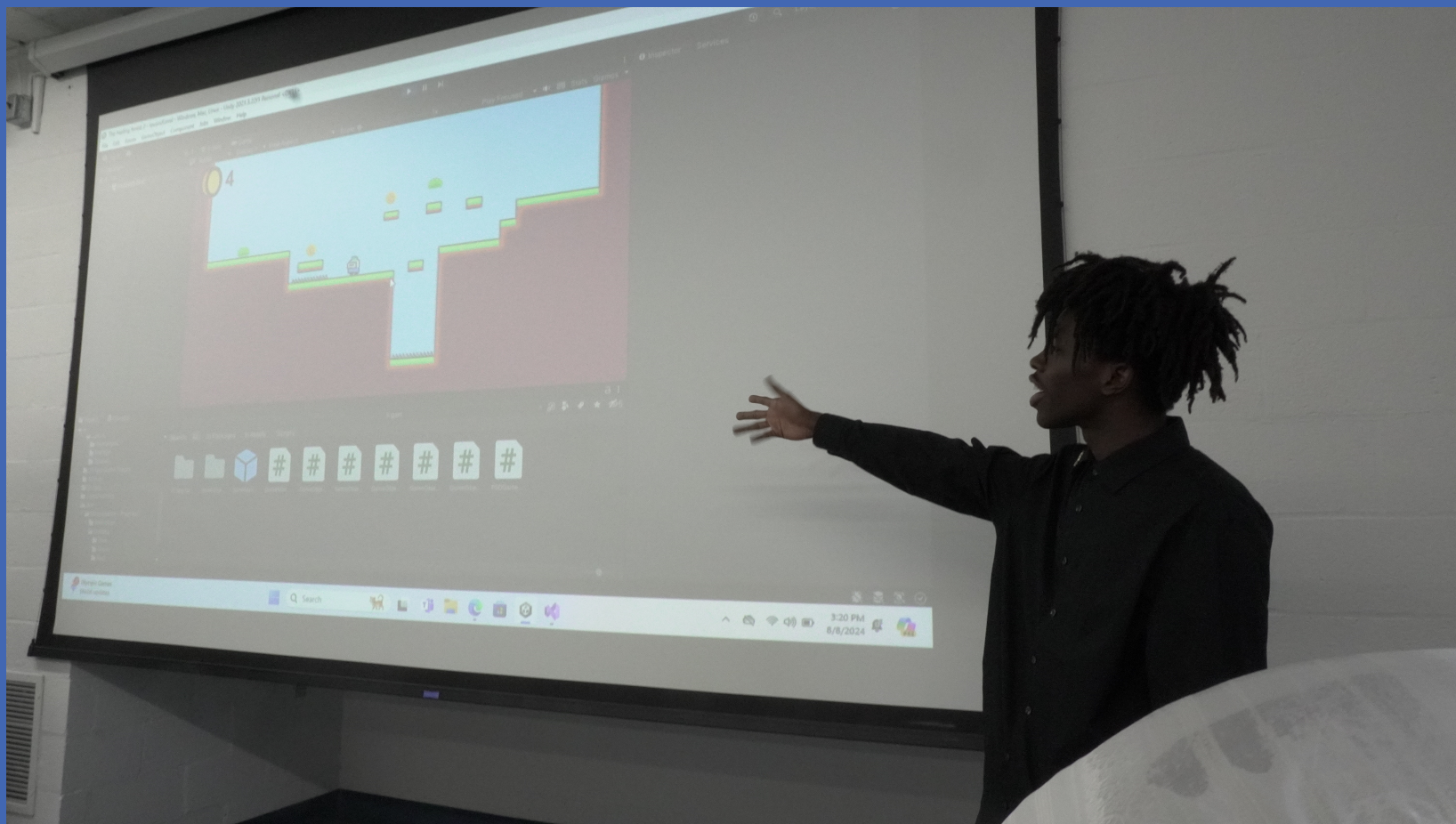- learning how to code may be difficult for some

Activities:

- supervised the Be. Virtual classes, taking note of methods/lessons that did and did not work with the students

- gathered feedback from students and fellow interns

- managed the planning of the end-of-program event: Tech Day

- researched potential companies to network with on behalf of the organization

Impact:

My supervisor praised my project management, saying it was the best Tech Day she had seen so far. The students groups had a great time working on their games and pitching their ideas to the audience. A few students entering college even expressed a newfound interest in tech after the program, looking to pursue it at a higher level. After successful completion of the course, the students were awarded with a certification.

Unity

Acknowledgments:

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