

Bridging the Gap: Encouraging High School Students Toward Careers in Technology

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Abstract

Tech Corps of Ohio is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to enlighten young minds as to the techniques behind computer troubleshooting and repair as well as the professionalism required to run a student tech-help center in their schools and/or communities. The majority of the students accepted into the program are from either rural or inner city communities where tech help is often too expensive to afford. Another offshoot of the program is that the students learn valuable career experience that can help them obtain a job following high school.

As with all technological training, the curriculum must be constantly updated to ensure that the students get the most practical experience possible. This year, there is a large amount of updating to do in order to keep the curriculum on top of the consumer computer market. My research this year has focused on both working with the Tech Corps main office to update the central curriculum as well as working with the local branch in Columbus to provide additional resources such as worksheets, activities, and lectures to the program's teachers. My poster will discuss some of the major changes needed to bring the curriculum up-to-date, as well as a deeper investigation into how the Tech Corps of Ohio program helps the schools and communities that offer it to their students.

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