2022

Impact Report

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About Us

We Connect The Dots (WCTD) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to utilize cognitive learning and coaching models to create positive outcomes across communities. Where technology is used as a tool for supporting productive and engaging learning experiences. We Connect the Dots provides program offerings for underrepresented populations. To model and teach how technology increases potential and productivity, we must understand it in real-world applications. We support communities by providing experiential learning programs to populations that would normally not have access or the resources to provide these immersive education programs.

Visit our website: https://www.we-connect-the-dots.org

STEAM Education

Technology Workforce Development Programs

HTML, CSS & JS Basics
Advanced JavaScript
React
Microsoft Certification Training
AWS Certification Training
CompTIA Security+ Certification

Our STEAM Education and Technology Workforce Development Programs begin with the career goal in mind. At the local, national, and global level, we engage with industries, educators, and community partners to understand challenges, translate them into skills, and deliver intensive trainings to participants who graduate and are ready to make meaningful contributions to organizations. Our workforce partners continually ensure that WCTD's curriculum is up to date to ensure success. We integrate soft skills training to teach participants how to work collaboratively, communicate across teams, and present themselves to employers. By incorporating career evaluations, career coaching and resume preparation into our workforce development programs we ensure our graduates are confident and competent in the interview process. As a result of blending soft skills and workforce readiness training we increase our employment rates and entry in to Computer Science related higher education.

" I was assigned to a job at the Village Hall of Southampton, NY and it was the best thing that has happened to me. The four weeks during the workforce experience was honestly terrific, especially working with these lovely ladies that I care about so much and can't imagine myself anywhere else.

Jaeda G., UpSkill Program Participant, NY

Learner Support

Building a career in today's modern workforce is challenging, and sometimes it can be overwhelming to move through change. Our team of on-site and online personnel are there to help everyone be successful. From teamwork to coaching, We Connect The Dots' Technology Workforce Development and STEAM Education Programs teach more than just coding skills. We equip participants with the ability to think critically, think computationally, build strong problem-solving skills, how to overcome adversity, and to build confidence in entering careers in a modern workforce. From programming languages to industry best practices, participants get hands-on experience working with today's web development and cloud-based tools.

Industry Tools

UpSkill Technology Workforce Development Program

COMPLETED EDUCATION LEVELS

GED, Highschool graduates, some college

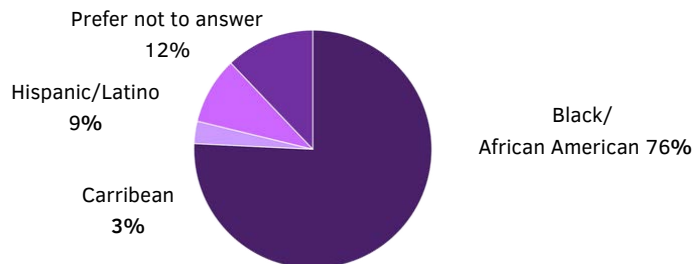**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**
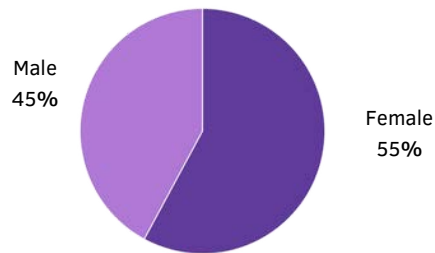
Unemployed/Underemployed

AGES

18-24

$126,000

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

RACE/ETHNICITY

- Prefer not to answer 12%
- Hispanic/Latino 9%
- Carribean 3%
- Black/African American 76%

GENDER

- Male 45%
- Female 55%

Workforce Experience

The UpSkill learning program includes 4 weeks of workforce training followed by 4 weeks of workforce experience, where participants will have the opportunity to demonstrate their new skills working in entry level technology administrative roles for local businesses and nonprofits. This program takes a holistic approach, teaching both soft skills and technical skills to build capacity in solving complex problems, cross collaborating with team members, synthesize information, and learning about the many career opportunities in tech.

82%
of our graduates feel prepared to be successful

73%
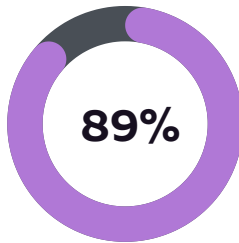of our graduates feel they will be successful in college

73%
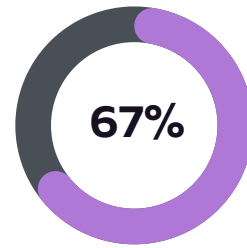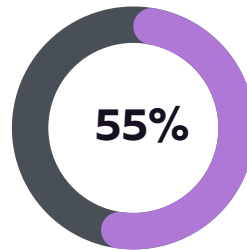of our graduates want a career in STEAM

WE CONNECT THE DOTS

Outcomes

UpSkill. Built. To. Scale.

89%

of our students completed the workforce training from our UpSkill Program

67%

of our students completed the workforce experience from our UpSkill Program

55%

of our graduates were hired by their assigned workforce experience employer or enrolled in programs to gain additional computer science education

"We learned how to recognize our emotions and how to handle our emotions when triggered. Also, in the process of trying to help improve ourselves, we should be mindful of the other person's state of mind. This is vital in the workplace."

- Aysia M., Upskill Program Participant, NY

Key Partnerships

Microsoft

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Department of Labor

SC DOL | SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

S O SSI

THE CENTER · THE CENTER

COTA Council Of Thought and Action

jovia | Financial Credit Union

REFUGE DREAM CENTER

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Code-A-Thon

Demographics Overview

91% U.S. Students; 9% International

Male 63% / Female 37%

>1000 students representing
50+ schools nationally

LEARN TO CODE
INDUSTRY INSTRUCTORS

Students invest in their future by learning invaluable technology and coding skills. Taking place each January, the program offers a blended model (virtual/on-site). With coding training classes delivered by industry instructors and followed by a 3-day Code-A-thon weekend where students collaborate on teams for project development and compete for fun prizes.

Ethnicity

- American Indian or Alaskan N...
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White / Caucasian
- Prefer not to answer
- Other
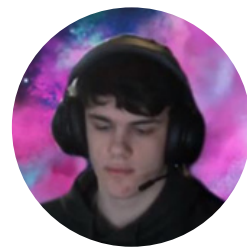
"We Connect The Dots is a great option for anyone looking to learn how to code. I am a high school student and returning alumni to the annual Code-A-Thon. As a result I have passed my Microsoft Introduction to Programming using HTML and CSS exam."
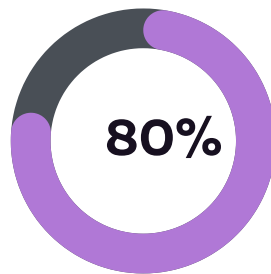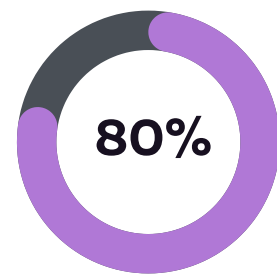
- Alex Weigand, Student, NY

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Outcomes

Career Exploration. Teamwork. Collaboration. Problem Solving.
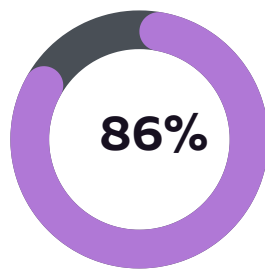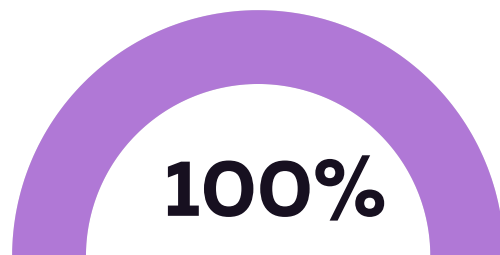
86%
of our students believe they will be successful in college

80%
of our students believe they will have a successful career in STEAM
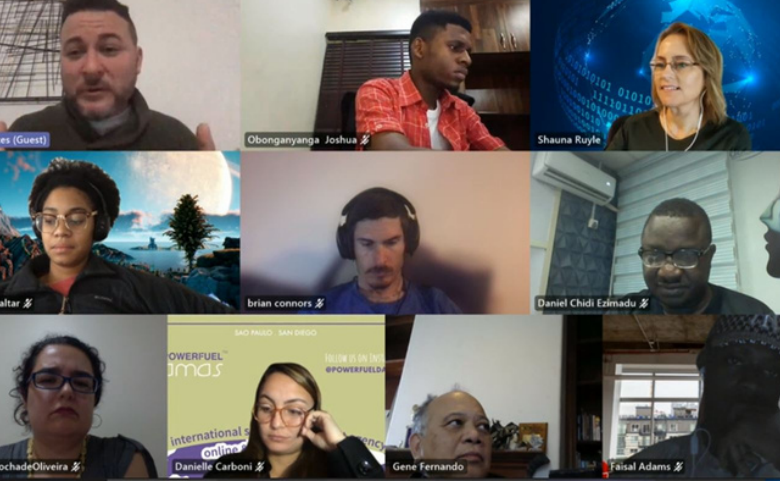
80%
of our students like to work in groups

100%
of our students would recommend the program to others

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Microsoft

jovia | Financial Credit Union
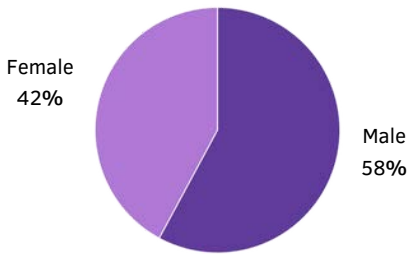
AAUW

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Steps to Build an Alexa Skill

STEP 1: DESIGN
STEP 2: BUILD
STEP 3: TEST
STEP 4: CERTIFY AND PUBLISH

amazon alexa

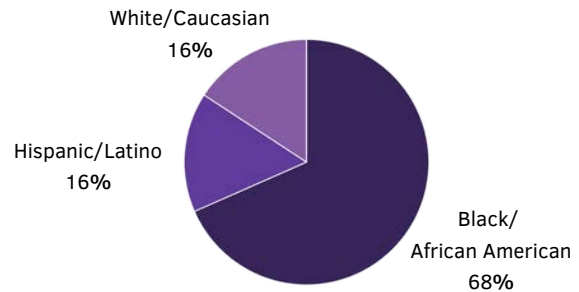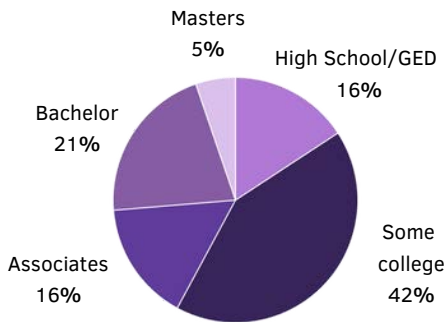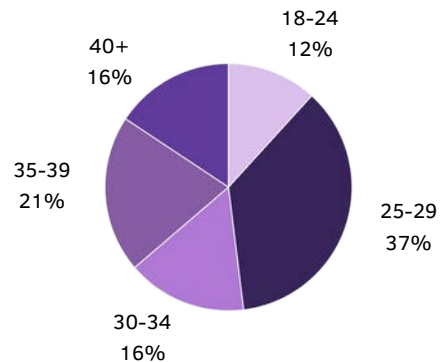# AWS Global AI Challenge Demographics

GENDER

Female 42%
Male 58%

RACE/ETHNICITY

White/Caucasian 16%
Hispanic/Latino 16%
Black/African American 68%

COMPLETED EDUCATION LEVELS

Masters 5%
High School/GED 16%
Bachelor 21%
Associates 16%
Some college 42%

AGE

18-24 12%
40+ 16%
35-39 21%
25-29 37%
30-34 16%

AI Education: An Economic Imperative

Now, more than ever, is the time to provide in-demand cloud computing skills, training and a connection to high paying jobs. Emerging technology is significantly transforming the way we work and live. We believe that marginalized communities should not be excluded from the opportunities that these changes create.

"The challenge was incredible, it really exposed me to things I didn't know before. Today I'm okay with cloud technologies and can work with them effectively. Thanks to AWS for helping in making it all possible."
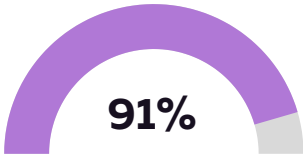
- Obinna Enoch Nnamani, Ihechukwu Madubuike Institute of Technology, Nigeria

Outcomes

100%

of our students are interested in getting certifications in AWS

91%

of our students overall computer skills have greatly improved as a result of the program

Top 5 Tech Skills Gained
Alexa Skills Kit
Amazon Developer Account
Cybersecurity
Python
Machine Learning

$20,500

scholarships awarded

"I loved the Keynote Speaker presentations, especially Intro to Machine Learning. It's a concept that I didn't think about before and I saw a new world of opportunities to explore"

- Mariam Hazali, IT Support Spcialist, U.S.A.

Key Partnerships

aws   Microsoft   Google   CISCO

EQUITY GLOBAL   NGO CSW New York   AAUW   ThingLogix   N

jovia Financial Credit Union

SYSTEMIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION GROUP   IHECHUKWU MADUBUIKE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY   CSU The California State University   ALU   DE CERO A CIENCIA DE DATOS