



# The National Urban Technology Center, Inc. Impact Report



# Letter From the President

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Since our founding 27 years ago, Urban Tech has been dedicated to narrowing the digital divide, the gap between the technological "haves" and "have nots" in the US and across the globe. Our work is grounded in the belief that the transformation now occurring intensifies disparities and inequities in underserved communities; and those learners who most need a path to pursue a career in Computer Science and STEM are often the ones most lacking in resources and educational support.

As we progress forward in our strategic plan, we are taking bold steps to reach learners where they are. Our priority is to ensure that we can go deeper into the communities that most need our help to deliver high quality and equitable Computer Science and STEM programs for students, parents, educators and community members.

This year, we inaugurate the Computer Science Academy, starting in Brooklyn, NY as a partnership between The National Urban Technology Center, Inc., Community School District #17 (CSD 17), the New York City Department of Education (DOE), and the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), with an established commitment to expand to 50 New York City public schools.

As we target public schools with demonstrated need, the Computer Science Academy presents a new paradigm in teaching and learning, providing world-class Computer Science, STEM, and the resources to facilitate academic, social and emotional well-being while supporting learners every step of the way.

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Urban Tech believes in Computer Science and STEM for everyone; regardless of age, background, and experience; and the result of our programs in underserved communities over the last 27 years is showing that this is possible.

We appreciate and rely on the support of our board members and donors to help bring the Computer Science Academy to schools and communities nationwide. We look forward to continue to engage underserved populations in the critical years ahead, to prepare students to be empowered learners, digital citizens, innovative designers, creative communicators and global collaborators – the future leaders in technology!



**PATRICIA BRANSFORD**

*Founder and President  
The National Urban  
Technology Center, Inc.*

# Mission and Strategy

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The National Urban Technology Center Inc. (Urban Tech), is a registered 501c3 not for profit, established to close the digital divide in low income, urban communities by preparing community residents with the technological skills needed to succeed academically and professionally.

We work nationally in underserved communities to build pathways to technology, Computer Science, and STEM; and increase participation by women, students of color, and other groups underrepresented in technology.

Since 1995, Urban Tech has expanded access to technology by launching educational programs to promote digital literacy, technology, and professional development, building state-of-the-art computer centers in communities across the country, and connecting residents to higher paying jobs in the service economy. Our extensive history of replicating our teaching methods and building computer centers across the U.S. champions our mission to increase access for all and create a pipeline for higher paying jobs in New York City and beyond.

Our vision is for all students to have the opportunity to learn Computer Science, become safe and responsible digital citizens and leaders for change as we close the digital divide in their communities.





NEW YORK INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY

# OUR VISION IN 2022

## *Building Computer Science Academies*

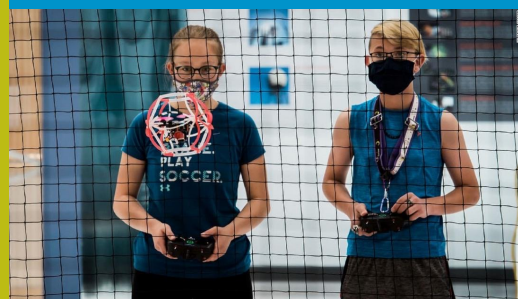
- ★ Investing in Computer Science Skills for Technology Careers
- ★ Accessible and Exciting Curriculum with Tutoring and Support
- ★ Post Pandemic Focus to Close the Learning Gap
- ★ Building a Pipeline in Schools for Academic Success, Leadership and High-Paying Jobs
- ★ Coaching Parents for Resilience and Social and Emotional Well-Being



ENGINEERING THE  
FUTURE WITH  
COMPUTER SCIENCE



ROBOTICS &  
EMERGING TECH



PARENTS BUILDING  
SKILLS FOR A  
SUCCESSFUL TECH  
CAREER





# Our Goals

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To support our mission, we work across the education spectrum: designing curriculum, training teachers and parents, partnering with school districts, supporting institutional partners, marketing to break stereotypes, and developing outreach efforts in urban areas where getting access to computer science education is especially challenging.

We are proud of our achievement and see challenges in the future that require even greater focus on building technologically-skilled, diverse and inclusive communities in the next 25 years. We thank you for your continued commitment to these important objectives.

Here are the goals that we aim to achieve:

- ✓ Make computer science tangible, relatable, accessible, and engaging while ensuring students feel supported in every step of the way.
- ✓ Inspire communities of students, parents, and teachers to see themselves as creators and leaders in the tech industry.
- ✓ Teach learners with little to no prior experience in an easy-to-follow series that scales to an advanced level; minimize drop-out of students in underrepresented communities who have limited resources.
- ✓ Help students achieve new levels of academic achievement. Ensure preparedness and future success in academia.
- ✓ Integrate supplemental learning in schools to lighten the burden of responsibility on family and lessen equity divide.
- ✓ Address the teacher training gap in science and technology by forming partnerships with universities and the business community to bring world-class learning to underserved schools and communities.
- ✓ Integrate Computer Science & STEM in academic core subject areas, extracurricular activities, and student interests, including arts, language, social studies, sports, and more.
- ✓ Provide exposure to mentors and role models representative of the community (inclusive of gender, ethnic, ELL, disability, socioeconomic diversity), museums, universities, technology companies, hackathons, and other supplemental resources.
- ✓ Connect student, parent, and teachers to workforce development and professional partnerships.
- ✓ Form educational and employment opportunity pathways; Reach students at the earliest levels and continue education to high school, higher education, and beyond.

# Our Voices



## 2022 GALA AWARDS FOR LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT

*Pictured Left to Right:  
LLOYD and TERI TROTTER  
The Corporate & Philanthropy Leadership Award  
Lloyd Trotter & Teri Trotter Charitable Trust*

*JOHN STARKS, Presenter  
Founder and President  
John Starks Foundation*

*MONIQUE CAMPBELL, PhD  
The Educational Leadership Award  
The School of Integrated Learning MS354*



# Our Values

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We believe in the power of a collaborative education community



We believe Computer Science is foundational for all students



We are agile and responsive to feedback



We believe broad impact requires thinking big and acting holistically



We are committed to equity, access, and opportunity



We act with integrity and transparency



# 2022 Highlights

## We're launching the Computer Science Academy in New York City Public Schools

In November 2022, the Computer Science Academy pilot launches in Brooklyn, NY as a partnership between The National Urban Technology Center, Inc., Community School District #17 (CSD 17), the New York City Department of Education (DOE), and the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), with an established commitment to expand to 50 New York City public schools.

Targeting public schools with demonstrated need, the Computer Science Academy provides world-class Computer Science, STEM and social-emotional learning to facilitate academic, social and emotional well-being, and professional achievement of students and their families.

The Computer Science Academy champions our mission to:

- ✓ Make STEM and Computer Science tangible, relatable, accessible, engaging, and exciting while ensuring students feel supported with every step.
- ✓ Inspire communities of students, parents, and teachers to see themselves as creators and leaders in the tech industry.
- ✓ Teach learners with little to no prior experience in an easy-to-follow series that scales to an advanced level according to International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards of excellence.
- ✓ Provide exposure to mentors and role models reflective of the community (inclusive of gender, ethnic, ELL, disability, socioeconomic diversity), museums, universities, technology companies, hackathons, and other community resources.

The Computer Science program includes: computer assembly, modern programming languages, game development, animation and videography, interactive robotics and mechanical engineering, STEM & computational thinking across subjects (art, music, sports, and health, etc.), digital literacy, and responsible digital citizenry & ethics. The Computer Science Academy ensures participating students have equitable access to STEM resources and acquire the skills and know-how that students need to succeed academically; and their parents need to compete in the job market.

## We are developing a CS curriculum with equity at its core

To continue closing gaps in access and participation, the Urban Technology Center, Inc. has developed a new computer science curriculum to empower every student, regardless of their background, to use computer science to bring their dreams to life.

The curriculum considers cultural references and learning styles in every facet. That includes vocabulary, visuals, and the sequence of concepts taught, using strategies from Culturally Responsive Teaching pedagogy. Leaders from the technology industry, academia, and state governments are participating in advisory councils by providing us with valuable insights to help us understand how to prepare all students for continuing pathways in computer science.

## We are showing students CS & STEM in the world around them

We're excited to bring computer science lessons to life for students of all ages and experience levels. In our curriculum, we include exposure activities designed to show students how they can engineer the future with STEM and help them envision their own future possibilities.

From virtual field trips for CS history to live coding with [ERRSELA](#) to battling and operating robotics in [DRONE SOCCER](#), students are encouraged to uncover Computer Science (CS) in unexpected places. These unique experiences inspire students to continue their CS journey both in the classroom and beyond.



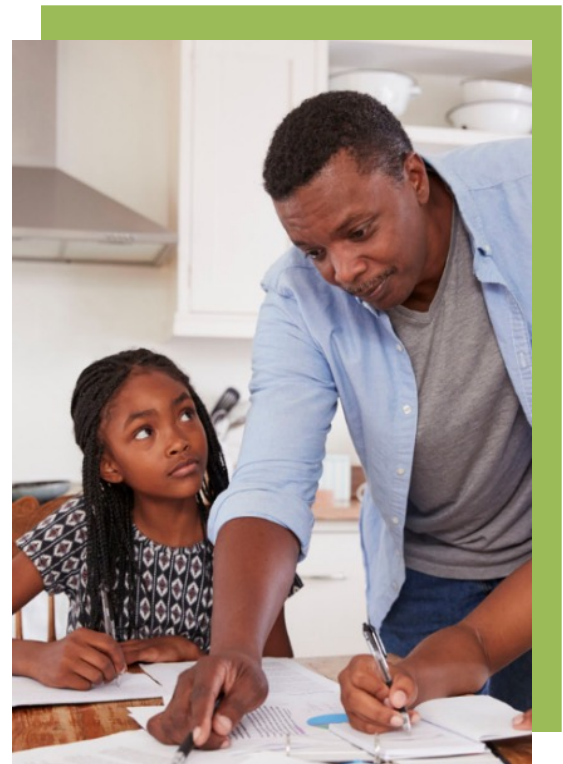


## We're developing vocational skills in computer science for parents and families

We believe Computer Science should be accessible to all. With this as a motivating force, Urban Tech created the Parents Care Program®, providing social-emotional coaching and Computer Science training to parents/caregivers, making technology accessible to the whole family, and strengthening parents' ability to support and educate their children.

Coaching sessions are implemented in-person or virtually; parents recognize post-pandemic stressors, and gain confidence to become co-educators to help close the learning gap. Parents are also equipped with vocational skills for immediate use in a technology-based career, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Tools and applications for online work including collaboration and video software such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Slack, Google Workspace, Office 365: presentations, word processing, and spreadsheets.
- ✓ Technical devices: knowing how to use common devices: keyboarding, using a mouse, printers, understanding, installing, and using an operating system, troubleshooting, hardware fundamentals.
- ✓ Introduction to computer programming, basic programming concepts and languages, career options for programmers.
- ✓ Understanding the internet and configuring a wireless network.



Upon completion of the program, parents receive certification and referred to our workforce development partners for job placement. All participants who successfully complete training receive a state-of-the-art laptop which become the smart workstation for their family, giving them complete access to the Urban Tech's Learning Management System, applications and courseware.

## ★ We're addressing the Teacher Training Gap

There is a disconnect between the belief that computer science is important and the actual application of computer science skills in schools. A primary barrier to accomplishing the goal of bringing STEM to students is a shortage of STEM educators. More than half of U.S. public school districts report struggling to recruit and retain knowledgeable and certified STEM teachers [1]. This figure rises to 90% in districts serving large proportions of African-American and Latino students.

27 states now require schools to meet computer science standards, with many adopted standards all the way from K to 12. As the groundswell of interest and effort from students, parents, teachers, districts, and states to bring computer science into the K–12 system grows, so does the immediate need for CS & STEM Teachers. Urban Tech meets this need by bringing trained and effective teachers to underserved communities, providing training to teachers branching out into STEM, facilitating peer instruction in our programs, and offering accessible STEM learning resources at scale.

## ★ We've outlined goals to transform national CS education by integrating CS in all subjects



Computer science has helped unlock mysteries in math and medicine. It's been used to create art, your favorite games, TV shows, and movies. It helps us eradicate diseases and enables us to explore the depths of outer space. It allows us to communicate across the world, imagine ancient civilizations, as well as build the cities of the future. Computer science is foundational in our lives, and thus to our education. We envision a world where computer science is a fundamental integrated part of the education system for all students.

In California, computer-science enrollment growth came at the expense of social studies, English/language arts, foreign language, and arts courses [2]. Urban Tech believes the subject must be taught alongside, or integrated into, other core courses, rather than replacing them. This includes core subject areas such as art, music, history, writing, and language arts, extracurricular activities and student interests including business, fashion, sports, and more. In this way, students can expand their horizons on how they can participate in STEM and be leaders in technology.



## We're successfully imparting Leadership Skills to students in underprivileged communities

Urban Tech has been steadfast in its commitment to effecting measurable change in education across underprivileged and underserved communities through innovations in digital literacy, critical thinking, restorative justice, experiential applications, and Social and Emotional Learning. Urban Tech launched the Youth Leadership Academy® (YLA) to provide students in those communities with skills to improve personal growth and leadership.

A pilot study of YLA found a 26% increase in attendance rates, 46% increase in reading scores, 40% increase in math scores, and a 67% increase in graduation rates after introducing the curriculum, as well as increases in self-esteem, self-efficacy, and pro-social behaviors.

Through YLA's comprehensive professional development programs, faculty have reported significant improvements including increased awareness of students' social-emotional needs, effective technology platforms for teaching these skills, and improved life and leadership skills. Additionally, YLA's family engagement focus facilitated better relationships between and among administrators, faculty, parents and families.



"When I took the Urban Tech class, I learned that learning is to expand your mind and to grow as a person. I learned persistence and how to meet difficult challenges. Urban Tech helped me to grow as a person. Since experiencing the Urban Tech courses and learning from their great team, I have gone from fair grades to always being on the honor roll."

—Krystal Suazo, Urban Tech Alumna

## We're creating Safe and Supportive Schools

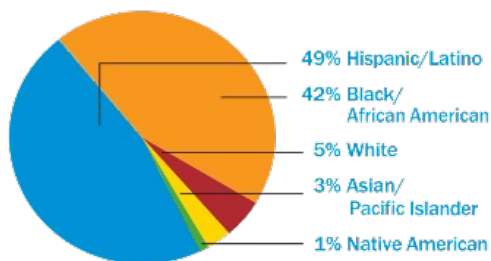
Rooted in trauma-informed care and restorative justice practices, Urban Tech's Dignity for All curriculum implements a technology platform that helps teachers and parents identify young people in crisis and use conflict resolution techniques for anger management issues. Today, only one in four teachers see nothing wrong with bullying and intervene only 4% of the time. By increasing the number of Upstanders from 4% to 25% (those who use DFA to create a culture of diversity, inclusion and racial justice in their classrooms), we are reducing the incidence of violence by 57%.

Schools implementing DFA also see improved skills in empathic listening and restorative inquiry as well as a decrease in incidents of bullying as quickly as in six weeks. Students are becoming active participants in their communities and fostering respect and understanding among their peers and school staff.

# Reach and Impact

Addressing diversity and equity issues is core to Urban Tech's work and is woven throughout its programs - from curriculum development to advocacy to marketing. We focus not only on gender and socioeconomic diversity, but also on increasing participation among students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups: Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Native American, and Pacific Islander.

URBAN TECH  
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



To ensure that our programs are implemented with the highest quality of instruction, Urban Tech works in partnership with universities, schools, afterschool programs, community-based organizations, faith-based institutions and youth development centers. About 90% of Urban Tech's clients are Black and Latino; their families' per capita income is at or slightly above the poverty level.

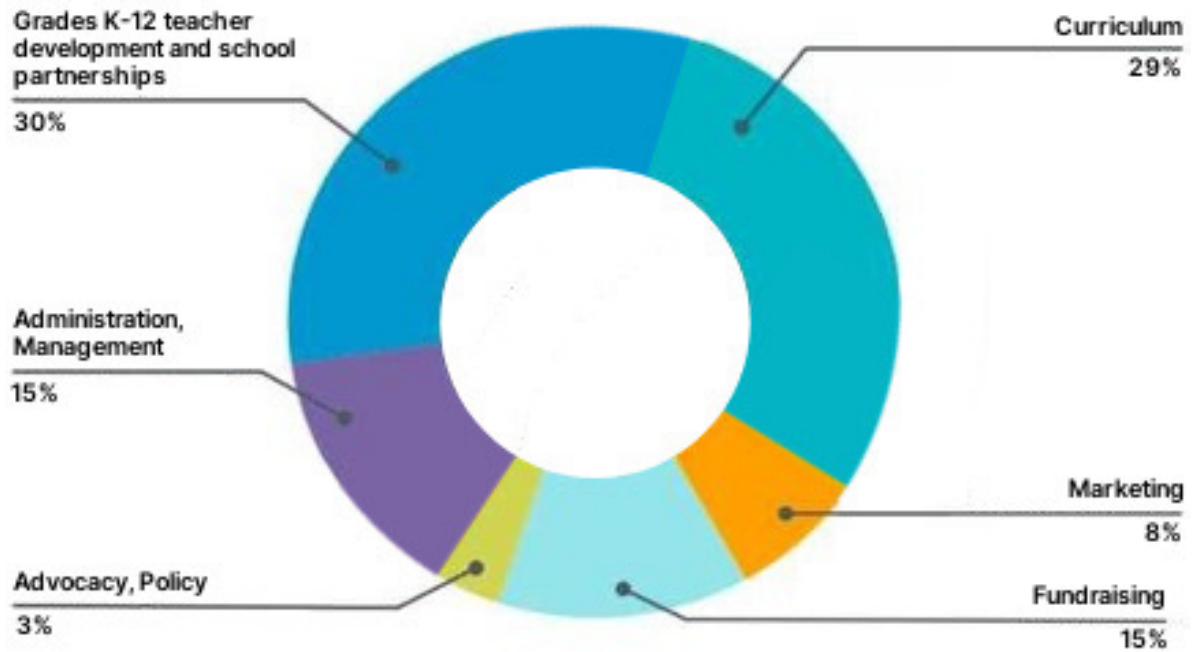
Since 1995, Urban Tech has built a network of 500 computer training centers, 300 youth development programs and 150 financial literacy programs. It has reached 600,000 students in 500 schools and placed over a million people in jobs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, and Singapore, Asia.



Urban Tech's Parents Care Program (PCP) was launched during the pandemic with 100% participation rates. The Youth Leadership Academy® (YLA), has been implemented in 25 NYC Schools across 11 Community School Districts; and in 66 schools and afterschool programs in 23 states and the District of Columbia. A pilot study of YLA found a 26% increase in attendance rates, 46% increase in reading scores, 40% increase in math scores, and a 67% increase in graduation rates after introducing the curriculum, as well as increases in self-esteem, self-efficacy, and pro-social behaviors.

# Financials

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*The chart above paints a picture of the National Urban Technology Center, Inc. Financial Breakdown.*

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# Letter From the Board Chair

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Among the many inequities in our society that have become even more apparent during the current pandemic, few have been more visible than the digital divide that has impacted communities of color. Black, Latino and Asian American communities, especially students, have much more limited access to broadband and other digital services than the overall American population. This divide, as has been the case since the dawn of the digital age, has created gaps in educational opportunities for communities of color. This situation is a stark reminder of the continuing need for the work of the National Urban Technology Center (Urban Tech). Since 1995, Urban Tech has been steadfast in its commitment to effecting measurable change in education through innovations in digital literacy, access, and experiential applications in learning.

Combine this ever-present reality with a world slowly looking to get back to “normal” post a global pandemic, and we are presented with new data, highlighting those issues and demonstrating just how great the barriers our children and communities are facing.

Together we have an opportunity to re-imagine an education that provides prosperity in the 21st century to all families and the time is now to push forward.

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Our bold new programming combines relevant teachings and quantifiable national benchmarks with a curriculum rooted in equity and access.

This groundbreaking curriculum offers support for students, parents, and teachers to learn and be active participants in science and technology. The strategy here, is to “lift students out of the educational crisis caused by lack of teachers and resources in STEM” by creating an adaptive, technologically-rich program for learners of all levels, and provide access to rigorous curriculum for acquiring needed skills for academic, personal, and professional success. This is critical work that Urban tech has committed to, and we are thrilled to share it with you.

These are exciting times for Urban Tech, and as we continue to push forward, I would like to personally thank our strategic partners, who continue to share their enthusiasm for re-imagining change at this critical and unprecedented time in our history, and invite new alliances to join us in this very important work. Your support, new and continuing, is the cornerstone of our success and I look forward to this new year of opportunities.



**DON LOWERY**

*Board Chair*

*The National Urban*

*Technology Center, Inc.*

# Partners

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The National Urban Technology Center, Inc. is proud to acknowledge the following schools and community partners

## ARIZONA

San Louis  
San Louis Middle School  
Southwest Junior High School

## ARKANSAS

Jacksonville  
Dream Arkansas.org  
Little Rock  
Covenant Keepers Charter School

## CALIFORNIA

Lancaster  
AV Champions Inc.  
Paradise  
Achieve Charter School

## CONNECTICUT

New Haven  
New Light High School

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington  
Lydia's House

## FLORIDA

Fort Myers  
Source of Light & Hope Development Center  
Panama City  
LEAD Coalition of Bay County, Inc.  
Saint Augustine  
Saint Augustine Youth Services

## GEORGIA

Augusta  
Boys & Girls Clubs of the CSRA  
Atlanta  
Urban League of Greater Atlanta

## ILLINOIS

Assumption  
Kemmerer Village Central A&M  
Calumet  
Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology  
Thornton Fractional North High School  
Lansing  
Thornton Fractional South High School Mattoon  
Mattoon  
Life Links Mental Health  
Monee  
Monee Education Center  
Normal  
Hammitt Junior/Senior High School  
Rockford  
Flinn Middle School

## LOUISIANA

LaPlace  
Louisiana Ambassadors

## MICHIGAN

Flint  
Ignite Flint Four Square Church

## MINNESOTA

Minneapolis  
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## MISSOURI

Columbia  
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## NEVADA

Reno  
Girls Only - Washie Co SD

**NEW JERSEY**

Paterson  
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**NEW YORK**

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South Bronx Academy for Applied Media  
J.H.S. 098 Herman Ridder

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M.S. 354 The School of Integrated Learning  
Ronald Edmonds Learning Center II  
Aspirations Diploma Plus High School  
P.S. 056 Lewis H. Latimer

*Manhattan*

Council of School Supervisors and  
Administrators (CSA)  
Harold O. Levy School  
MLK High School

*Queens*

August Martin High School  
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J.H.S. 185 Edward Bleeker  
J.H.S. 226 Virgil I. Grissom  
P.S. 043  
Preparatory Academy for Writers: A  
College Board School  
Queens School of Inquiry  
Queens United Middle School  
SONYC/Parsons Beacon Community School  
The Child Center of NY  
Waterside School For Leadership  
YABC/Flushing High School

**NORTH CAROLINA**

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**NORTH DAKOTA**

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**OHIO**

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**OREGON**

Portland  
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Salt Lake City  
East High School

**VIRGINIA**

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Woodbridge  
Woodbridge Senior HS

**WASHINGTON**

Newcastle  
Becker Homeschool  
Seattle  
Seattle Theatre Group

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City on a Hill



# Education & Technology Advisory Committee

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The Urban Tech Education & Technology Advisory Committee (EAC) was established in 2003 as an advisory panel to the Urban Tech staff. The EAC is comprised of leading policy experts and practitioners who share an interest in the development of programs for high-needs communities and youth and the success of Urban Tech's innovative technology training, professional development, financial education and youth development programs.

Members of the advisory group bring a collective knowledge base from diverse backgrounds in educational technology, STEM, teaching, youth development, curriculum development, psychology, evaluation, professional development and organizational behavior.

**Johnnetta Betsch Cole, PhD**

Director of African Art, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture; President- Emerita, Spellman College and Bennett College

**Cassandra Bransford, MSW, PhD**

Associate Professor, Binghamton University Department of Social Work; Director, Applied Clinical Research

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**John Starks**

NBA All-Star, New York Knicks; founder and president, John Starks Foundation

**Carol Weintraub**

STEM Trainer and R&D Specialist – TBLS  
New York Institute of Technology

**Jennifer White**

Dignity for All– Curriculum & Multimedia Researcher and Producer

**Christopher Williams**

STEM Trainer – TBLS  
New York Institute of Technology

# Our Generous Donors

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The National Urban Technology Center, Inc. is dedicated to the vision to expand access to technology in underrepresented and urban communities. We are supported by a dynamic community of corporate, institutional, and individual donors. The National Urban Technology Center, Inc. is a public 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All charitable contributions to The National Urban Technology Center, Inc. are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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2011 Community Service Honoree;  
Star Jones, 2013 Award Presenter;  
Blair Underwood, 2012 Humanitarian;*

*Ms. Patti LaBelle,  
2010 Community Service Honoree;  
Hannah Bronfman 2017 Visionary;  
Annette Bening, Humanitarian;*

*Hill Harper, 2014 Humanitarian;  
Louis Gossett Jr.,  
2014 Award Presenter;  
Maurice DuBois,  
2012 Public Service Honoree;*

*Valerie Jarrett,  
2017 Humanitarian Award;  
Vanessa Williams, 2021 Presenter;  
June Ambrose, 2016 Youth  
Empowerment Award*

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Dr. Dorothy Productions,  
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 Jacqui Wasserberger  
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 Margaret (Dolly) Williams  
 Nancy Williams  
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 Suzanne Zissu



**The National Urban Technology Center, Inc.**

25 Broadway, 12th Floor  
New York, NY 10004-1010

(212) 528-7350

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