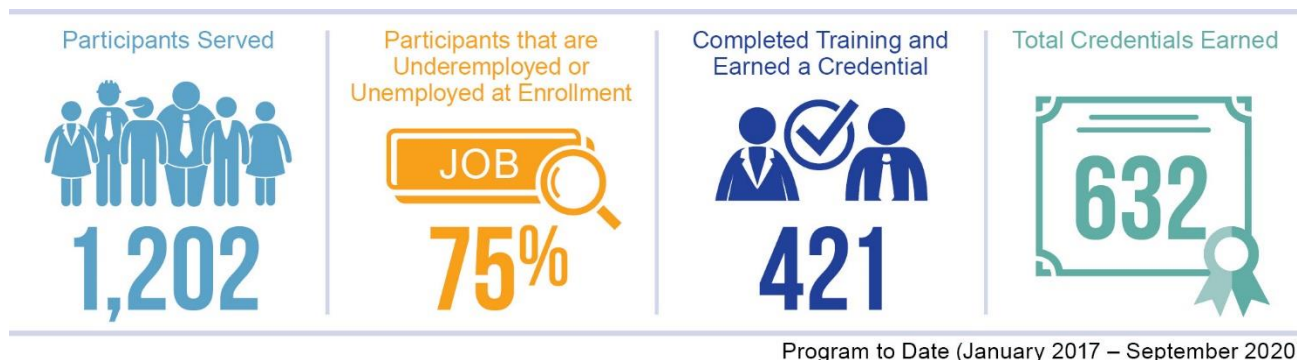


CUNY TechWorks

PARTNERSHIP LEAD ORGANIZATION – RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF CUNY

SERVICE AREA

NEW YORK: Kings, Queens, Manhattan, Bronx and Richmond; and New York City.



Overview

City University of New York (CUNY) TechWorks' mission is to connect underrepresented and low-income New Yorkers to the growing number of opportunities in New York City's thriving tech sector via no-cost, applied skills education and training in software application development, web design and development, and IT systems administration.

Collaborating with the city's tech employers and industry representatives, as well as our three community college partners, Borough of Manhattan Community College (MCC), Kingsborough Community College (KCC), and Queensborough Community College (QCC), we have created three program tracks featuring a dynamic mix of industry-aligned academic coursework and practical skills trainings designed to give participating students the right mix of hands-on, real world tech skills needed by local companies.

Program Highlight

CUNY TechWorks offers participants the opportunity to receive relevant, skill-based trainings for in-demand tech careers, and if they choose, earn credit to continue on a degree pathway in computer networking, internet and information technology, or multimedia design thanks to the integration training plans into related applied associate degree (AAS) programs.

Regional Workforce Partnerships and Sector Strategies

By actively creating, developing, and sustaining industry partner relationships, we found that many industry corporations were not working with community colleges. There was an interest in collaborating to build pilot programs that engaged employees in the industry and our CUNY students.

We launched the Google x CUNY Community College workshop series in August of 2019 that brought together our CUNY TechWorks students and Google staff who worked in the departments of user interface/user experience (UI/UX), software development, and human resources campus recruiting to have monthly tech and non-tech workshops at the NYC Google office. The workshop series was such a success that when COVID hit we continued the series virtually, with the capabilities to scale the program by opening up the events to the entire CUNY population by using the Google Meet platform.



Success Story and Impact

Victor Wang completed his coursework at QCC TechWorks and was placed in an internship as a web developer at Infragard, a public-private partnership between U.S. businesses and the FBI. Through his internship, Victor has been working on updating the Infragard website, cleaning its code, and moving it to WordPress to make it easier to update. His internship supervisor describes him as "an information sponge" who is quick to research anything he does not already know. Victor credits TechWorks with teaching him good habits for tackling programming problems. Victor joined QCC's program after completing a degree at Queens College in sociology and accounting. He always felt a strong desire to work in the tech field but did not have the knowledge or experience to do so with his previous degree. Now that he does, he believes that anything can be made more powerful when you use technology to your advantage.



CUNY TechWorks

Ashley Bass, abass@cuny.edu, or

Nakisha Evans, Nakisha.evans@cuny.edu

Website: <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/workforce/cuny-techworks/>

