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The Tech Apprentice Internship Program: Engaging Youth in IT

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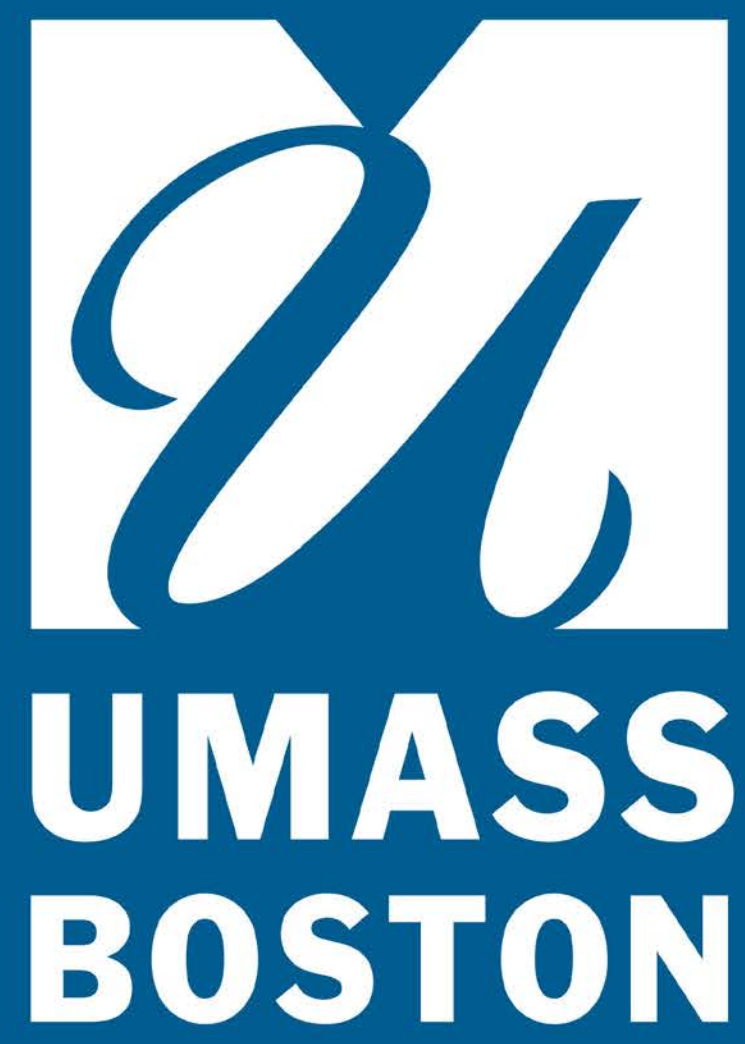Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters

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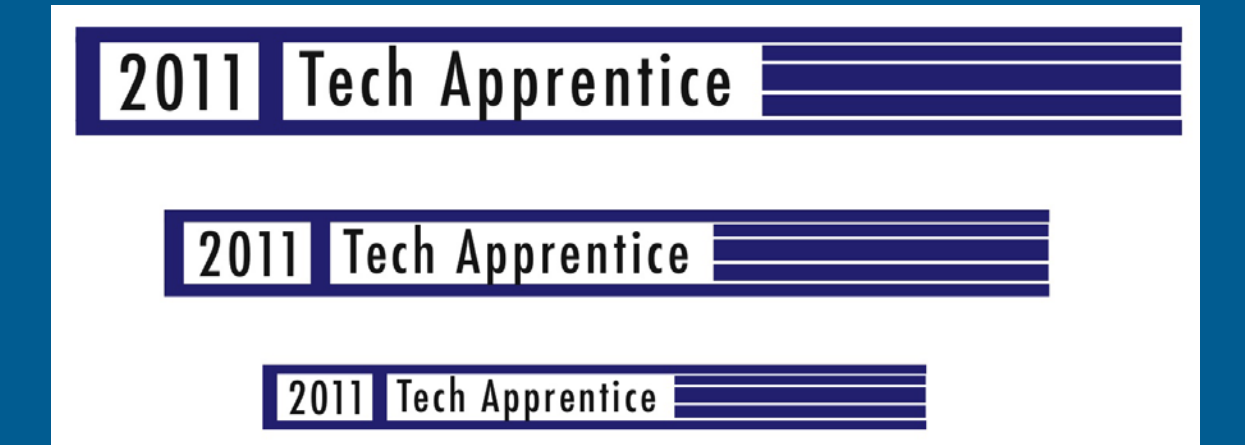
The Tech Apprentice Internship Program: Engaging Youth in IT

UMASS BOSTON

Summary/Abstract

The Tech Apprentice program was designed to provide Boston Public School (BPS) students work-based learning opportunities within information technology (IT) departments across a diverse array of industries for seven-week, paid summer internships. A robust technology internship program encourages BPS students to pursue IT-related post-secondary degrees. Tech Apprentice has expanded from 25 student placements in the first summer to 123 who were employed in 2012, and the program has placed over 600 students in internships since the program launched in 2006. *98% of graduates attend colleges and 78% are pursuing an IT-related degree.*

Results/Impacts

651 students have participated
Females: 45 %   Males: 55%

- 98% of graduates go to college
- 78% pursue IT majors or careers
- 98% of alumni graduate from college within 4 years
- 74 companies have participated
- 88% of employers are repeat customers

Conclusion/Next Steps

Conclusions
- Giving young people of Boston opportunities to work inside Boston businesses builds a stronger community.
- Talented high school students add value to businesses.
- Many interns have employment extended or hired on part-time basis while in college.

Next Steps
- A model for a scale project within two Massachusetts Community Colleges.
- Poised to scale to additional school districts and higher ed institutions.

Goals and Objectives

- To strengthen a computing industry pipeline in the Boston area. *(BATEC business partners concerned about low numbers of graduates majoring in computing disciplines).*
- To provide an experience that will transform students' perceptions of IT field and realize IT jobs are exciting, creative, and beneficial to others (prior to entering college).
- To leverage existing and future employment opportunities: consistent demand for employees who develop, apply, integrate, and administer computing technologies and who adapt quickly to rapid technological advances.
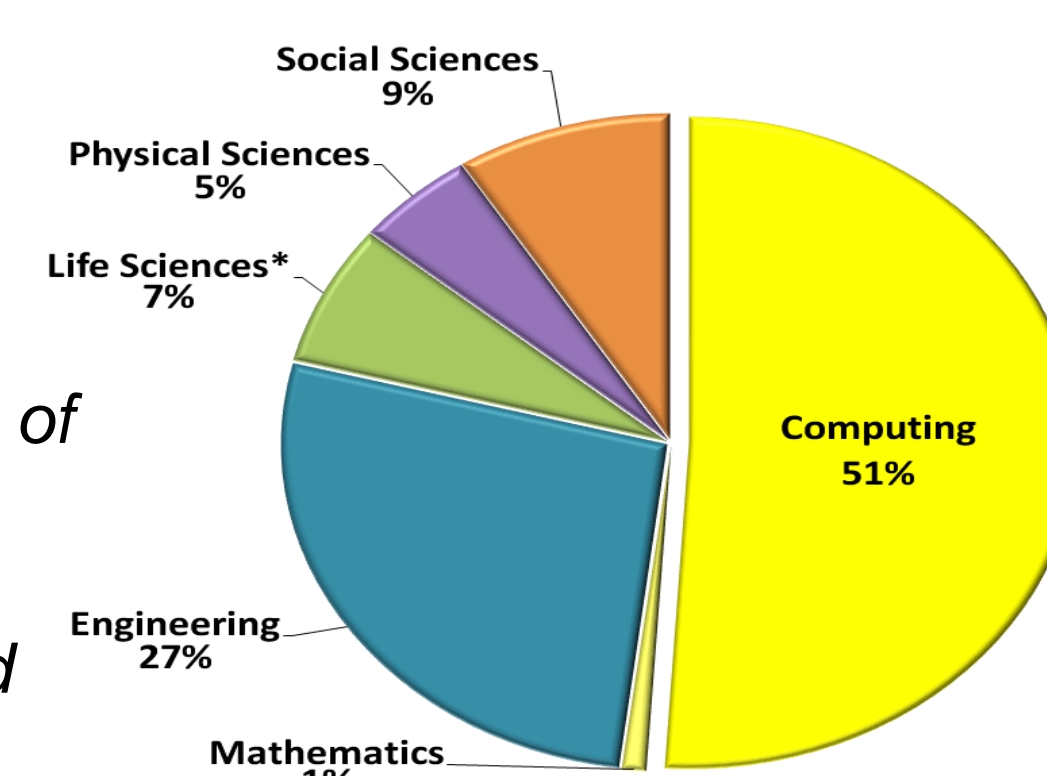
Employment Projections 2010-2020 by Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects over half of all STEM jobs will be in computing, percentage continues over time (topping 20%). Referenced from http://www.bls.gov/emp/)

Social Sciences 9%
Physical Sciences 5%
Life Sciences* 7%
Computing 51%
Engineering 27%
Mathematics 1%

Approaches and Methods

BPS's TechBoston program (a BATEC partner) leverages Summer Jobs Program to create technology-focus serving students in advanced technology courses

Tech Apprentice Employer Manager manages application process: Screens/prepares potential interns; Manages employer recruiting (with support from Boston PIC and industry advisors).

Companies control interview/selection process; option to attend supervisor training.

Students are paid $2500 for 7 week summer job; participate in 3 day workplace readiness workshop; receive check-ins by staff to ensure successful experience.

Resources

Two Guides Produced:
1. *Tech Apprentice Manual – High School*
2. *Tech Apprentice Manual – Community College*

Download guides at: http://batec.org/publications

Partner Information

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