Technology & Our Children’s Future

Youth Code Jam

Kevin Wooton, Brig Gen (ret), USAF
Board Member
What’s the Concern?

• We don’t have enough!
  – Economy at Risk
  – National Security at Risk
  – Opportunity Lost
Opportunity

1,000,000 more jobs than students by 2020

$500 billion opportunity

1.4 million computing jobs

400,000 computer science students

Computer science is a top paying college degree and computer programming jobs are growing at 2X the national average.
Imbalance in Reaching Out

Boys receive more encouragement than girls from...

- **Teachers**: 1.5x as likely to be told by teachers they would be good at CS
- **Parents**: 1.7x as likely to be told by parents they would be good at CS
- **Media**: nearly 2x as likely to often see someone like them doing CS in the media

Girls are less aware of ways to learn CS on the Internet and in the community & more likely to have learned CS and to learn on their own.
What Else?

• Multilingual Skills:
  – Do you speak Ubuntu?
    • snap install mir-kiosk --channel=beta

• Understanding Technology
  – Not the same as using technology
  – Children teach their parents

• The window closes
  – Digital “Natives”

• Creativity more satisfying than Consuming

• Problem-Solving/Analytical & Critical Thinking
  – “Computational Thinking”
So...Where do you turn?

- Start as early as you can!
  - iPads, smartphones becoming ubiquitous
    - Use them or they will use your kids!
    - code.org
- I’m excited about....

Think globally, but ACT locally!
Youth Code Jam

- Building Excitement
- Building Confidence
- Building The Future
A Solution to Help

A holistic program of connected growth opportunities for all young people to learn with computer programming with the support of their parents and real-life programmers that connects the dots from all that fun to real world jobs.
This says it all
Programs

• Jams
  – San Antonio, Austin, RGV
  – 36 Teacher-run thru out TX

• Camps

• After school clubs

• Teacher PD: 508 as of 2018

• Advocacy
Community Response

14,818 in 2018!!!
Measured Impact

• 81%: Very good/Excellent
• 93%: Wanted to code some more
• Favorite quote: “awesome, fun, tired, happy, hungry!”
• Parents: 98%: child learned something new

• Significant numbers of low-income students
  • 30%-100% depending on program
How are we scaling?

We rely on volunteers.

We incorporate teachers.

We play well with others.

...and Parents help bind it all together!
Contact:

• Youthcodejam.org
  • Executive Director: Debi Pfitzenmaier
    – debi@sacodejam.org
    – 210.669.6911

• Kevin Wooton
  – kevin@kevinwooton.com
  – 210.394.2707