First State Tech Partnership Celebrates the Success of Yes, We Tech!

The First State Tech Partnership marks the culmination of the Yes, We Tech! Summer Internship Program for high school students

Wilmington, DE – The First State Tech Partnership (FSTP) proudly announces the conclusion of the Yes, We Tech! summer internship program and the graduation of its inaugural cohort. The remarkable achievements of 18 talented Technology Interns were celebrated during the Yes, We Tech! Graduation Ceremony on August 4, 2023, at Riverfront Events at Hyatt Place. This program has successfully developed Delaware high school students by providing them with a dynamic seven-week paid internship experience that fosters workplace readiness skills and digital proficiency through classroom training and on-the-job, work-based learning. Technology Interns achieved an incredible 100% success rate in earning the IC3 digital literacy certification – an industry-recognized credential that will undoubtedly make them more marketable to employers. They also earned a durable skills credential, strengthening their position for success in thriving industries upon graduation from high school and/or college. The program also achieved significant diversity milestones, with 33% of graduates being young women and nearly 70% students of color.

In early August, Technical.ly featured an article that spotlighted Yes, We Tech! and the stories of three exceptional Technology Interns – Alanna Denault, Aditya Kshirsagar, and Kori Sampson. The program’s innovative approach to providing work-based learning, professional development, and networking opportunities has garnered attention for preparing Delaware high school students for successful careers in the tech industry. In addition, the Tech Council of Delaware had the privilege of participating in the Delaware Site Visit organized by the Jobs for the Future (JFF) Congressional Staff Network on August 23. During the event, Yes, We Tech! program leaders served on the panel titled ‘Using Sectoral Partnership Strategies to Diversify the Tech Workforce’ to showcase the First State Tech Partnership strategies for diversifying Delaware’s tech workforce and nurturing local talent. The panel featured three Yes, We Tech! graduates – Alyssia Delgado, Zafyr Ahmad, and Brian Tran, who shared their valuable insights and experiences from the program.

Yes, We Tech! is a collective accomplishment of all companies and organizations that participated in making the 2023 cohort a success. This includes Rodel, the Delaware Business Roundtable Education Committee (DBREC), Code Differently, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, WSFS Bank, CSC, Delmarva Power, Richards, Layton & Finger, Buccini/Pollin Group, Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP, and EPAM Systems. The achievement of this collaborative endeavor also stands as a testament to the efficacy of the First State Tech Partnership – a sectoral partnership for Delaware’s tech industry, led by the Tech Council of Delaware as the workforce intermediary. The FSTP is elated for the Yes, We Tech!
graduates, who are now equipped to actively participate in the state’s tech ecosystem upon graduation from high school.

The Council serves as an active member of the Technology Councils of North America (TECNA). Recently, the Yes, We Tech! program was recognized by TECNA with the 2023 Innovation Award for the Talent Pipeline & Workforce category at the annual TECNA Summer Conference which was held in Seattle, WA. This honor and acknowledgment further fuels the Council’s commitment to its goal of building and expanding inclusive tech talent pipelines in Delaware.

About Tech Council of Delaware:

Tech Council of Delaware is a non-profit workforce intermediary dedicated to strengthening the local tech ecosystem and improving workforce diversity. The Council unites tech career seekers, employers, community organizations, and training and workforce providers around a collective vision to improve the lives of Delaware residents and support a thriving tech sector in the state by building and expanding inclusive tech talent pipelines. By building these pipelines and strengthening the tech ecosystem, the Council aims to strengthen Delaware’s position and perception as a tech hub.

For more information, visit techcouncilofdelaware.org.

To read the Technical.ly article on the Yes, We Tech! program, visit https://technical.ly/professional-development/yes-we-tech-delaware-high-schoolers-internships/

Contact: Joshua Berkow, Director of Operations, jberkow@techcouncilofdelaware.org

Graduating Class: Zafyr Ahmad, Hahna Allen, Seth Davis, Alyssia Delgado, Alanna Denault, Kayden Fleurimond, Jeremy Francois, Cole Hope, Daven Kaufmann, Aditya Kshirsagar, Syan Marcano, Demetrios Moutsatsos, Rebecah Nyakundi, Kori Sampson, Cassidy Simmons, Mekhi Starcks-Crews, Brian Tran, Randon Vodery.