

Inspiring students to pursue careers in computing and related scientific fields

Citizen Schools proposes to engage 5,600 disadvantaged middle school students in hands-on computing and related STEM projects across its seven state network of after-school and extended learning programs over the next three years. Working side-by-side with professionals and graduate students from information technology and other scientific fields, middle school students will recognize a connection between their after-school computing apprenticeships and the college and career opportunities to which they can aspire.

In 11-week apprenticeship courses (*see an example on the right*), offered within the existing Citizen Schools' after-school and extended-day program, middle school students will create authentic projects that develop a combination of hard and soft skills. Students will also build relationships with the adult volunteers who will lead the apprenticeship courses. These volunteers will speak credibly to the students, telling them about career opportunities in computing and related fields and the academic preparation required to pursue them (*see a story about one of our graduates on the right*).

As a result, disadvantaged middle school students will be more likely to enroll in challenging courses when they enter high school, to prepare for college attainment, and to pursue career opportunities in computing and related scientific fields.

Visit www.citizenschools.org to learn more!

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WEB DESIGN AND WEB-RELATED APPRENTICESHIPS

Web apprenticeships introduce students to the fundamental structures of the web, including web pages, content publishing, and the digital media that are used to drive web sites. Web apprenticeships will likely involve one or more of the following three approaches:

- Website building with HTML
- Visual and content design and production
- Content promotion

These web design activities establish a platform from which students can deepen their exploration based on their individual interests.

STORY OF ONE OF OUR GRADUATES

Sharnique Beck participated in eight apprenticeship courses at Citizen Schools during her middle school years, on topics ranging from urban gardening to art to computer programming. Her programming apprenticeship prompted her to enroll in high-level computer programming and college preparatory classes at TechBoston and to set her sights on a career in the information technology field. At Citizen Schools, Sharnique worked with Emily Leventhal, a professional engineer who was a volunteer Citizen Teacher, to produce a paper entitled, "Mission Tetris: Teaching 8th Graders to Program Tetris." Sharnique is now a senior at Smith College, majoring in Computer Science.