IT Pathways

A Technology Enrichment Experience for Opportunity Youth/Young Adults Ages 16-26

The Comp-U-Dopt IT Pathways Program is a rigorous, immersive learning experience that introduces participants to knowledge and skills in Information Technology and helps them explore careers in IT. The program combines curriculum from Cisco Networking Academy and Comp-U-Dopt to equip students with essential IT technical knowledge and skills, as well as career readiness competencies. Students will receive support from a Cisco-certified trainer to prepare for the CompTIA IT Fundamentals exam, an entry-level computer industry certification. The program covers the following areas of IT foundations and career planning, including:

Google Workspace and Professional Communications: Students will create a Gmail account and learn the basics of email etiquette and effective communication. They will become familiar with Google Suite and other learning tools they will use in the program.

Career and Self-Development: Students will explore IT careers and develop research, reading, and writing skills. Students will also practice soft skills, such as active listening, problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making.

IT Concepts and Terminology: Students will understand notational systems and data types, illustrate computing basics, understand the value of data, and learn troubleshooting methods.

Computer and Network Infrastructure: Students will know hardware components and their functions, and how to set up and install peripheral devices on a computer. Students will understand basic networking concepts and be able to install and secure a basic wireless network.

Applications and Software: Students will understand the components and purpose of operating systems. They will be able to manage software, configure web browsers, and understand methods of application architecture.

Software Development: Students will know programming language categories, be able to interpret logic, and understand the purpose of programming concepts.

Database Fundamentals: Students will learn database concepts and purposes, compare database structures, and understand methods used to interface with databases.

IT Security: Students will understand confidentiality, integrity, and availability concerns for secure devices, and learn security methods and best practices.

Certifications and Job Search: Students will learn about IT certifications and continuing education options. They will register and practice for the CompTIA IT Fundamentals certification exam. Students will update their resumes, prepare for interviews, and start their job search.