

2018

Excellence in Action Award

A&M Consolidated High School

Information Technology Program

Information Technology Career Cluster

OVERVIEW

A&M Consolidated High School in College Station, TX, has provided information technology (IT) Career Technical Education programs for nearly four decades. As technology and the skills necessary to succeed in this fast-paced field expanded, The College Station Independent School District transformed its computer programming offering into a robust IT program of study to fulfill that need. This innovative and ever-evolving program of study is designed to provide students with a rigorous academic foundation, complemented by a mastery of technical skills in areas including computer hardware, software, coding, networking and cybersecurity.

Student Demographics (288)	Percentage
Male	82%
Female	18%
Low Income	32%
Minority	43%

PARTNERSHIPS SET LEARNERS ON PATHWAYS TOWARD COLLEGE AND CAREERS

Partnerships with local employers and the education community are critical to the program's success. Students can earn up to 15 college credits through dual enrollment courses offered through a partnership with Blinn College. In addition to the expansive course offerings, learners can receive internationally recognized certifications, such as CompTIA A+, Network+ and Security+ certifications. Since 2000, the IT program of study has helped more than 130 students earn their A+ certifications.

The program also has an incredibly active advisory committee, with many industry partners providing meaningful work-based learning experiences, such as

A&M's IT program of study enjoys amazing industry partnerships, from industry leaders such as Reynolds and Reynolds, FiberTown and Texas A&M Industries, as well as many alumni who have entered the sector and stayed in the region. For example, an alum created ResponderX, an IT firm that observes the safety of first responders and firefighters. The firm provides IT students with mentorships, weighs in on curriculum, and offers internships in a unique sector of IT. SkillsUSA also serves as a key partner in cultivating leadership development opportunities. Learners run for district- and state-level positions, gaining the soft skills employers are seeking. Students also compete in competitions. They have been recognized as the number one chapter in the nation in work and technical skills.

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ALIGNING SKILLS WITH SERVICE

While learners take part in projects big and small — from regular equipment drives to prevent hazardous waste to teaching the community about cybersecurity — their latest endeavor may be their largest contribution yet.

The program’s Family Promise project was spearheaded by the SkillsUSA IT chapter students and instructor to address chronic homelessness in the Houston area. Through a Lowe’s grant written by the students, the program was awarded \$25,000 to work with industry partners to apply their skills and install a network and security infrastructure in an elementary school converted to temporary housing for homeless families. This service allows families to search and apply for jobs, work on resumes and complete school work, among their many computing needs.

For the past four years, students from the IT program earned recognition from the President of the United States for their commitment to strengthening the nation and communities through volunteer service.

Learners had to complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of service over a 12-month period to be eligible.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The future's looking bright for this IT program as it continues to grow and expand its course offerings, especially in the video game design sector. Currently, the A&M SkillsUSA chapter hosts video gaming tournaments, during which students apply their skills in systems networking, live stream technology, cybersecurity and customer service to host more than 350 participants.



“I would like to believe that the students will leave with a sense of accomplishment, knowing that they played a key role in providing a safe, secure environment for current and future families through the skills, knowledge and work provided by their own hands.” — Phebe Simmons, Ed.D., Director of Family Promise of Bryan-College Station

Success by the Numbers



100%

Participated in Work-Based Learning



100%

Graduated High School



96%

Earned an Industry-Recognized Credential



43%

Earned Postsecondary Credit

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