

2025

Evaluation Report

Diverse Minds. Unlimited Futures.

*We are DBA Tech Unlimited and our 501c3 status still remains as Tech Kids Unlimited.

Tech Unlimited: 2025 Program Evaluation

In 2025 Tech Unlimited worked with Dr. Ariana Riccio Arista, a developmental psychologist and independent evaluator with a specialty in autism and technology to evaluate all programs. Dr. Arista has worked with us since 2016 to design data collection measures that capture participant growth in both technology learning and social and emotional growth. We serve a diverse population of students ages 10- 24 with various challenges such as autism, ADHD, nonverbal learning disabilities, language-based learning disabilities, auditory and sensory processing challenges, and executive functioning.



Words used by students to describe their experiences.

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Summer Workshops

In the Summer of 2025, we offered 5 weeks of in-person and virtual workshops. Workshops ran for 2 hours per day from Monday through Friday. **Workshop themes included Digital Arts, Audio Production, Game Design, and Animation.** Data was collected from 96 students. Students completed the survey each Friday, at the end of each workshop, to share their experiences.

Student Survey Results:

According to students' own reports at the end of each week:

- 71% of students felt they would like to return to TU in the future
- **70% of students felt that they improved their computer skills after one week**
- **64% of students were looking forward to presenting their work at the end of the workshop**
- 58% of students felt they got better at working with others after one week
- 54% of students felt they made friends

When students were asked **“What was your favorite part of this week’s workshop?”** They replied:

“Goofing off AND WORKING TOGETHER!”

“Beepbox, as I created my own music!”

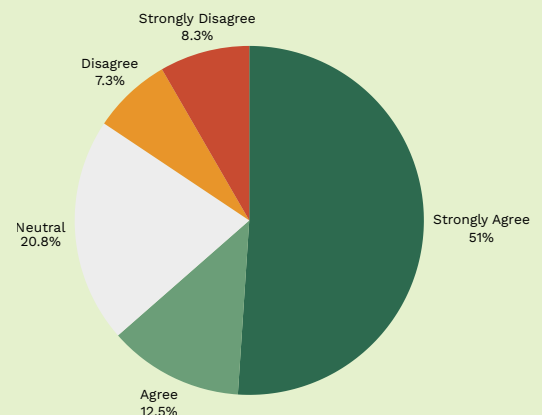
“Sharing my musical knowledge with other people.”

“Making a final presentation for our parents to enjoy.”



During the Digital Arts Friday Showcase, students presented their sketches to their families.

I am looking forward to presenting my work in today’s showcase.

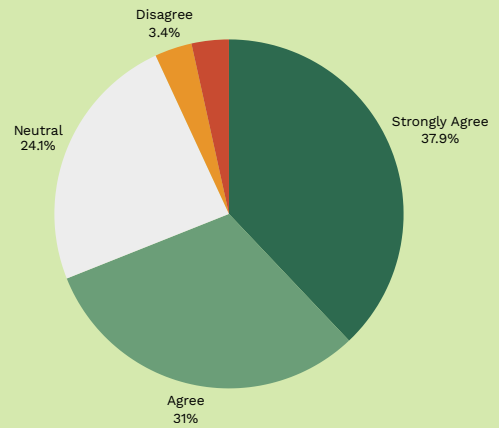


Sunday Workshops

TU offered 2 hour Sunday workshops once a month throughout the school year. Workshops focused on topics including game design, digital citizenship, AI, graphic design, and music production. This gave students the opportunity to explore and refine their interests and affinities. Data was collected in the Spring and Fall from 29 students.

- 67% of students reported that they would return to another Sunday Workshop in the future
- **70% of students said their teachers and/or counselors helped them to solve a problem during a Sunday workshop**
- 63% of students said that they improved their computer skills after a Sunday Workshop

TU staff helped me improve my problem solving skills during today's workshop.



Family Sunday participants learned how to program a Micro:bit to create an interactive hot potato game.



During the 3D Modeling Sunday Workshop, students learned how to use Tinkercad.

Digital Agency | Winter, Spring, and Fall 2025

Digital Agency is a virtual afterschool program for learners ages 14-24. This program mimics a real creative agency workplace. Participants must have demonstrated tech skills to join. **The focus of this program was on completing digital projects for real clients and all participants were given an honorarium for their contributions.**

What was the most exciting part of this Digital Agency cycle?:

- “Choosing the color palettes and creating the concept arts for the new logo.”
- “Sharing out my creativity.”
- “Seeing the process of game development.”



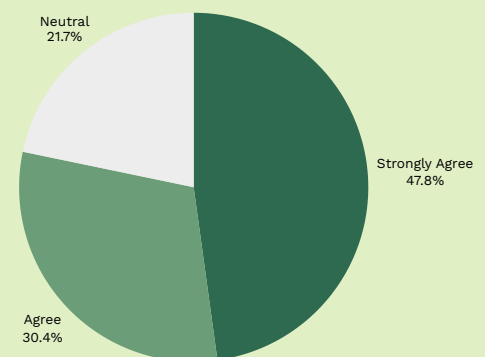
Participant Feedback and Survey Data

Participating students were surveyed at the beginning and end of their cohort in the Winter, Spring, and Fall. A total of 44 Digital Agency participants completed the survey, with many students attending more than one seasonal cohort.

When surveyed prior to their participation in a Digital Agency session:

- 92% of participants stated they understood what was expected of them at Digital Agency.
- **77% of participants believed that Digital Agency would help them develop essential workplace skills.**
- 73% of participants were looking forward to collaborating with their peers.
- 73% of participants were looking forward to presenting their ideas to real clients.

I'm looking forward to collaborating with my peers in Digital Agency.

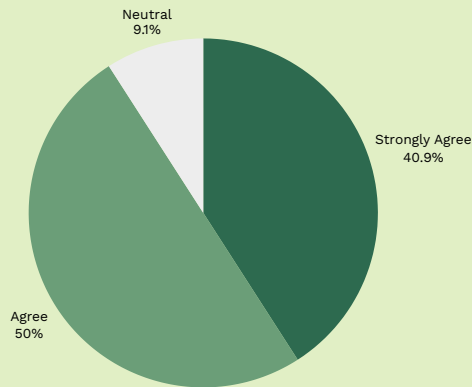


Digital Agency | Winter, Spring, and Fall 2025

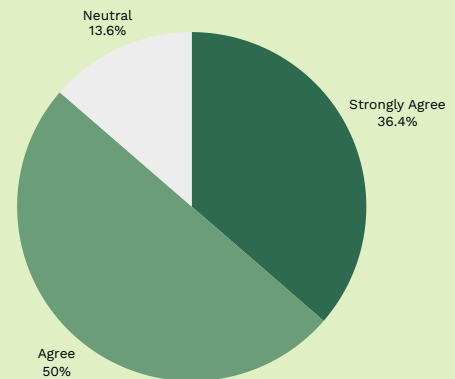
After participating in Digital Agency, participants felt they:

- Received the support they needed to manage time effectively (98%)
- Found working with TU staff helpful (95%)
- **Received the support they needed to stay focused on their tasks (91%)**
- Helped them develop essential workplace skills (91%)

I received the support I needed to manage my time effectively.



The Digital Agency program helped me develop essential workplace skills.



Which skills did you improve the most during this program?



Creative Tech Internship (CTI)

The Creative Tech Internship (CTI) is for teens and young adults ages 17–24 interested in creative technology careers. Serving as a bridge between education and professional experience, interns meet weekly on Fridays, 10:00 am–3:30 pm, throughout the academic year. They explored fields such as video production, animation, graphic design, game design, digital marketing, and digital storytelling.

Interns work alongside peers, tech mentors, and social support staff on hands-on projects, building portfolios and professional skills. The program supports diverse learning styles and strengths, with a mix of independent and collaborative work.

What was one strength you utilized in CTI?

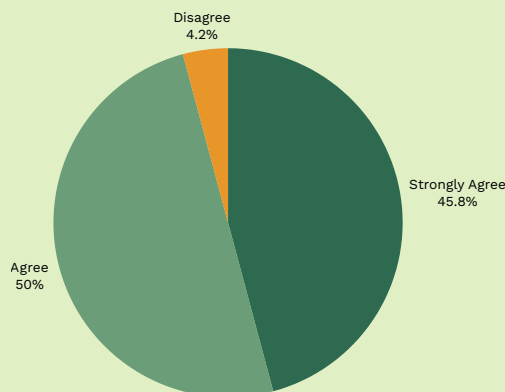
- *“Honesty since being honest is the best power you can have.”*
- *“One strength that I have utilized in CTI was asking for help and talking to social workers.”*
- ***“One strength I have that I utilized in CTI is open-mindedness.”***
- *“Creativity, perseverance, and curiosity.”*

What skills did you improve in CTI?

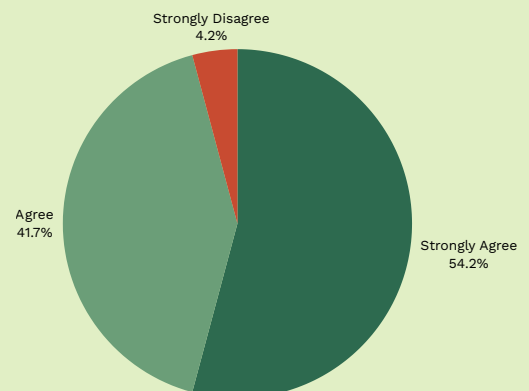
- *“Advocating for myself and not being afraid to ask questions when necessary.”*
- *“Two skills that I improved on were my communication and my time management.”*
- ***“I improved my listening and self-advocacy skills.”***

CTI participants also completed an SEL survey at the end of the program. Participants showed very high levels of coping skills, empathy, and other important soft-skills which are necessary for workforce success.

I feel comfortable using coping skills whenever I'm stressed.



I am empathetic towards others.

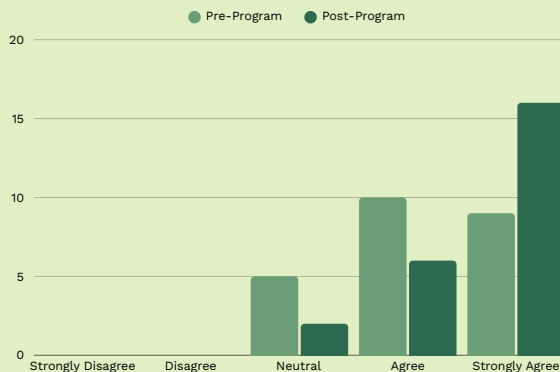


Career Readiness Internship Summer Program (CRISP)

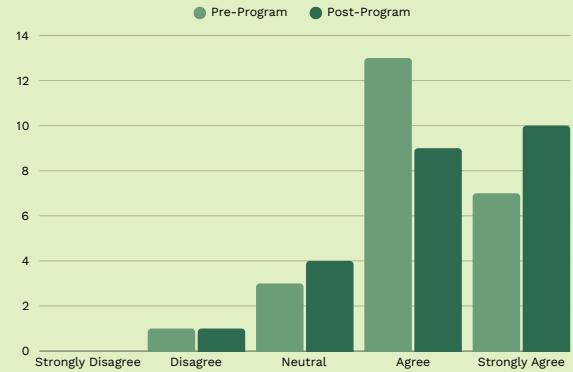
Now in its sixth year, CRISP is a 6-week invite-only summer internship for students ages 16–24 who have attended TU programs for at least one year. Interns work Monday–Thursday at worksites matched to their skills and interests, and meet Fridays with TU staff for professional development. They also receive career readiness support from social workers covering topics like interviewing, resume building, time management, and workplace etiquette, alongside guest lectures on career pathways. Student projects span social media, salesforce, data, and website work. The program is free with a stipend provided, some through partnerships with SYEP and Expand Ed.

CRISP participants also saw a jump in their workforce skills at the end of the program when compared to their pre-program survey. Executive functioning skills like planning and time management are often hindrances when people with learning differences enter the workforce.

I started assignments and tasks well before they were due.



I review and adjust my schedule when unexpected things come up.



When asked “What was one thing you improved about how you manage your time?” interns noted:

- ***“I am able to get up on time and take the right train to my site.”***
- *“I was more aware of when I had trouble focusing, and also would check with my supervisor if it was ok for me to take a break at that time.”*

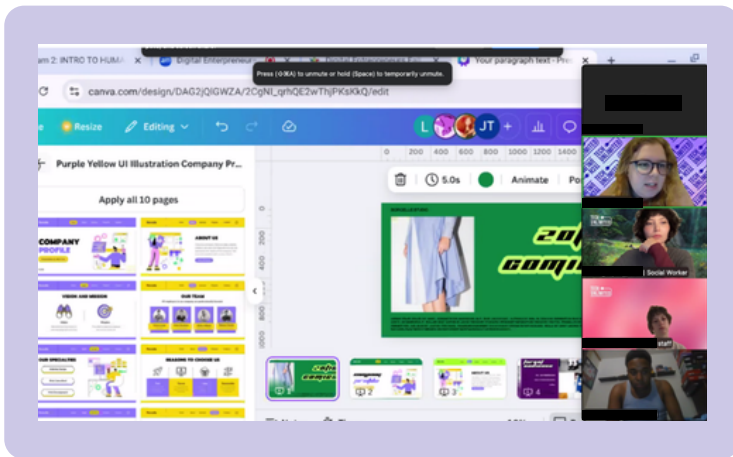
When asked “What skills did you improve in CRISP?” interns noted:

- *“I improved my skills with Excel, being professional in the workplace, and website management.”*
- ***“I improved on time management, self-advocacy, and resilience.”***

Level Up Tech (LUT)

Level Up Tech classes are a **series of career-ready workshops designed to help students ages 14 to 24 achieve their goals by giving them specific skill sets** needed to start exploring employment in a particular aspect of a tech field. Class topics were: Data & Design, Digital Entrepreneurship, Pathways for Education Careers, Data Visualization, and Data Analytics for the Green Economy.

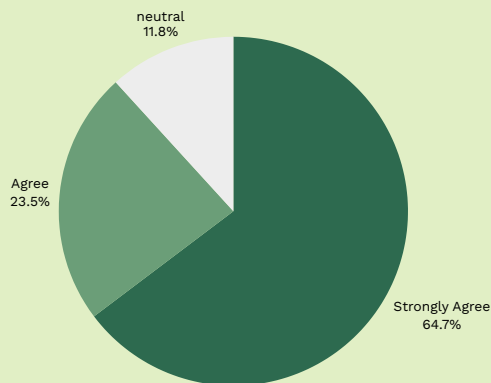
Level Up Tech sessions vary in their time commitment depending on the topic, but all meet twice per week for 2 hours.



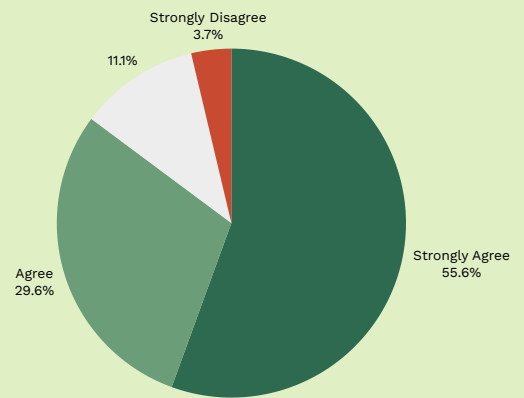
“The group activities made me feel comfortable with team projects and to prepare me for when projects show up in a career.”

Most LUT students agreed that they learned essential skills about the session topic such as digital marketing and data visualization. Students also all agreed that they learned skills to help them get a job after Level Up Tech.

LUT: Digital Marketing & E-Commerce program helped me develop essential workplace skills.



I learned skills at LUT to help me get a job in the future.



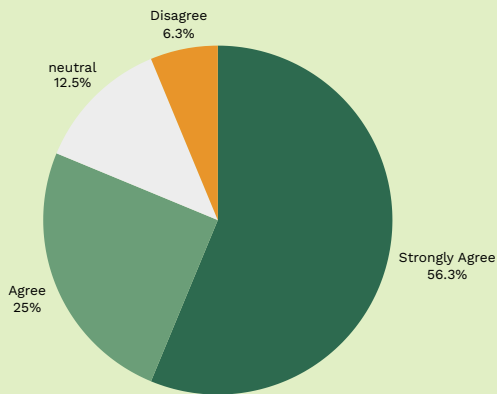
Digital Empowerment

Digital Empowerment is a free virtual program where students explore topics about the digital world while building communication and self-advocacy skills. Discussions are moderated by a tech teacher and multiple perspectives are encouraged. Games and activities reinforce learning in a supportive environment. A total of 32 participants completed the survey following their participation.

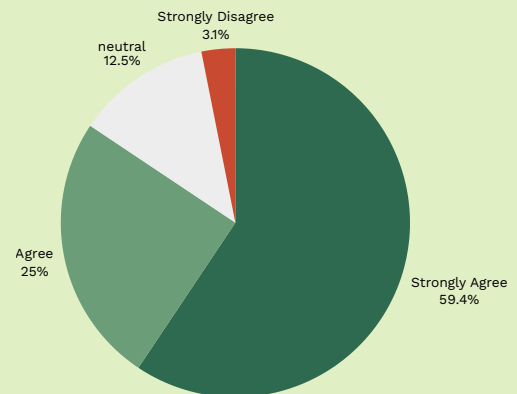
"I learned that community can be hard work but it's worth it."

Digital Empowerment students reported gaining skills such as being able to advocate for themselves (81%), build tech literacy skills (84%), learn about current events in the tech space (81%), and having the confidence to share ideas in a group setting (78%).

Digital Empowerment helps me advocate for myself.



Digital Empowerment helps me build my tech literacy skills.



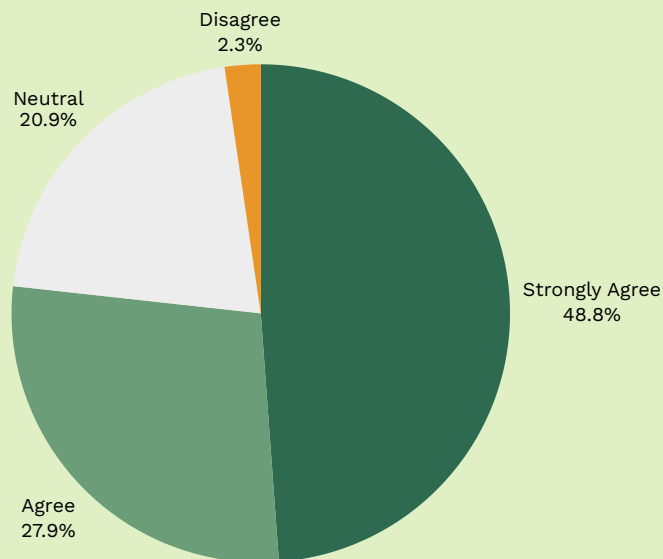
Parent Feedback - Career Ladder Initiatives

Parents of participants in Career Ladder programs such as Digital Agency, CTI, and CRISP, were surveyed in Summer 2025 to gather their feedback. A total of 43 parents completed this survey. Most of these parents had a child between 17-19 years old.

How did TU prepare students for life after high school?

- ***“The positive experiences have increased his confidence and learning ability.”***
- *“It remains a work-in-progress but he is gaining communication skills and an understanding of how to begin a project and see it through to completion. He is learning teamwork and he is gaining confidence in his skills.”*
- *“My daughter learned to use Slack, which my oldest daughter uses in her office job. She also learned to communicate professionally and collaborate in a group. She also seems excited about going to a digital art college because TU made her aware that this truly is her passion.”*

After being a part of TU programs, I have noticed positive changes in my child’s professional skills (e.g., time management, communication, teamwork).



Parent Feedback - Career Ladder Initiatives

Would you recommend TU programs to other families?

- *“Certainly, it supports students in acquiring valuable skills that enhance their professional development and contribute to success in various aspects of life.”*
- ***“Yes, absolutely. The staff is warm and engaging; he’s learned so much about digital tech; and he’s made really good friends that he’s seen socially outside of TU.”***
- *“Yes, absolutely. We found a community for my family and we have become better with understanding goals, working together with TU and seeing future goals as possible.”*
- *“Absolutely Yes. They understand how our kids are capable of learning in a different environment. And they have created such a great place for them to learn and become well rounded adults.”*

After being a part of TU programs, my child seems more confident about their future.

