Chair Manning, Ranking Member Jarrells, and members of the House Finance Higher Education Subcommittee. My name is Lisa Chambers, and I am here to testify on behalf of TECH CORPS, a national non-profit organization, headquartered here in Columbus, that was founded in 1995. Our mission is to develop a more technologically literate society, in which all K-12 students have equal access to technology programs, resources, and skills to enrich their education today and prepare them for college or career tomorrow.

TECH CORPS is the longest-operating technology education nonprofit organization in the United States and boasts a successful history of serving students with quality STEM learning experiences. For over 27 years we have formed intentional partnerships with copious school districts, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, corporations, and foundations to deliver much-needed technology resources to K-12 students and teachers. During this time, we have developed rigorous, evolving curriculum and deployed over 20,000 tech-savvy volunteers to implement programming.

In 2022 alone, TECH CORPS delivered 130 programs and distributed 3,100 Computer Science learning kits to nearly 6,000, K-12 students in seven states and provided computer science curriculum and professional development to 79 elementary school teachers in nine states. Nearly 150 technology professionals volunteered with TECH CORPS. We also gauge success by the individual achievements of the students we serve. In 2022, TECH CORPS employed seven former participants as part-time instructors, welcomed six as near-peer mentors at our 2022 Hackathon, and helped to transition two program graduates into internships with corporate partners.

As articulated in the Ohio Department of Education's Strategic Plan for Education, *Each Child, Our Future*, students who earn industry-recognized credentials are poised to directly enter the workplace or go on to two-year or four-year colleges. TECH CORPS supports the Executive Budget's continued approach of recognizing a student's hard work in becoming career-ready and preparing them for the next step in their career pathway through programs like the High School Industry-Recognized Credentials Initiative enacted under H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly and further policies under H.B. 110 of the 134th General Assembly.

One such initiative was the creation of the State Committee on Computer Science, a partnership of the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Higher Education, to which I was appointed. The Committee has spent the last year developing and debating policy recommendations to make Ohio a national leader in computer science education and workforce pipeline preparation.

I am here today to request the following:
1. **Maintain the creation of the Ohio Computer Science Council** under section 3322.02 of the as-introduced version of House Bill 33, for purposes of fostering and encouraging increased participation in computer science education across all counties through afterschool programs, summer camps, and other educational enrichment partnerships. This concept stands to transform the delivery of computer science education in the state of Ohio. If successful, I look forward to working with you and the Administration to ensure this model is successful.
2. **Maintain the Executive Budget proposal to establish the Office of Computer Science** under section 3333.96 within the Ohio Department of Higher Education for purposes of serving as the

center for all computer science education-related matters related to the state, including expanding access to computer science education.

3. **Earmark 125,000 in FY24 and 330,000 in FY25 for TECH CORPS to provide technical training for rural high school students** focusing on the middle-skill information technology pathway under the Student TECH CORPS program.

The goal of this funding request is to expand the delivery of core technology training and industry-recognized certification to 1,000 high school students by training 40 teachers over the biennium, with a particular focus on students in rural communities.

Research has shown that computer science is less accessible in rural schools than their suburban and urban counterparts, therefore offering less exposure to technology-focused skills. As these skills have emerged as a fast track to high-paying, in-demand jobs in Ohio, we cannot afford to leave behind this population of Ohio students and our future workforce.

To address this issue, TECH CORPS proposes to offer Student TECH CORPS, a proven program that delivers technical training and experiences necessary for high school students to be ready for college or career, with a focus on the middle-skill information technology pathway. This program includes four components: Basic Technology Training, CompTIA Testing and Certification, Student-Run Help Desk, and Accenture's Skills to Succeed. Basic Technology Training consists of 120 hours of online training in hardware repair, operating systems, software applications, networking, computer peripherals, and customer relations. Students will then undergo performance-based testing of their knowledge, culminating in the CompTIA IT Fundamentals exam. They will have all the capabilities needed to successfully implement a student-run help desk to support and complement existing technology infrastructure in their schools. Additionally, students will have access to Accenture's Skills to Succeed, an online work-readiness training platform that awards digital badges.

We are specifically targeting students living in Ohio's rural communities, where smaller budgets, less staff, and fewer higher education and employer partners in their region can lead to a rural brain drain, wherein capable students leave their communities for opportunities in employer hubs. TECH CORPS aims to prevent this by introducing rural students to career pathways that allow them to work in technology jobs without leaving their communities.

In Year 1, we will recruit up to 10 high schools in rural communities and provide professional development, curriculum, and program materials to implement Student TECH CORPS with up to 250 students (25 students per high school). In Year 2, the Year 1 high schools will continue implementing Student TECH CORPS with a new group of up to 250 students. We will also recruit up to 20 new high schools in rural communities to implement the program with up to 500 students.

I would like to thank the DeWine Administration and the General Assembly for your focus on workforce development, especially in STEM fields. Early exposure and access to computer science education provide students with economic opportunities in high-earning careers, and we applaud you for your recognition and attention to it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.
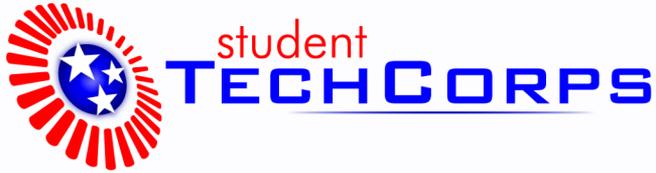
student TECHCORPS

Student TECH CORPS delivers core technology training and an industry recognized certification to high school students, then harnesses their knowledge to power a student-run help desk that provides valuable technical support in their school buildings and communities.

TECH CORPS

TECH CORPS is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring all K-12 students have equal access to the technology programs, resources and skills to enrich their education today and to prepare them for college or career tomorrow.

TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

120 hours of training in hardware repair, operating systems, software applications, networking, computer peripherals, and customer relations.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Equipment and supplies needed to implement Student TECH CORPS labs.

STUDENT-RUN HELP DESK

All procedures, training and call tracking capabilities needed to successfully implement a student-run help desk to support and complement existing technology infrastructure.

TESTING AND CERTIFICATION

Online, performance-based testing of student knowledge and industry-recognized certification (CompTIA IT Fundamentals+). Students who pass this exam can earn points towards their graduation.

CONNECT WITH TECH CORPS

info@techcorps.org

techcorps.org

@techcorpsus

#techcorps

TECH CORPS

STUDENT TECH CORPS VOICES

"The best part of Student TECH CORPS was gaining a foundation in technology. By earning an industry certification, technology training, and help desk skills, I will be able to achieve my goal of a career in computer science."

—Loreena
Sheridan High School
Northern Perry County

"*Vocational training is available to my friends who are going into mechanics, welding or many of the labor fields. Thanks to Student TECH CORPS, students like me who enjoy technology now have a career pathway into the technology industry.*"

—Alex
Sheridan High School
Northern Perry County

"*When I graduated from Graham Local, I went into the military. I install ethernet cables, repair laptops, and fix networking problems. Student TECH CORPS prepared me to get in and get the job done right!*"

—Brandon
Graham Local High School
Champaign County

Hyland™

March 8, 2023

Dear Ohio House and Senate Finance Committees:

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the incredible work that TECH CORPS is doing to support students in grades 3-12 to advance their technological education. As a corporate partner and supporter of their mission, I have been consistently impressed with the impact that TECH CORPS has made in communities across the country.

Hyland understands the critical importance of preparing students for success in an increasingly technology-focused world. That is why we have been proud to partner with TECH CORPS to help provide opportunities for students to learn the skills and gain the experiences they need to succeed.

The work TECH CORPS is doing to expand access to technology programs, resources, and skills for all students is truly inspiring. Their commitment to developing a more technologically literate society is making a significant difference in the lives of countless students and families, as well as businesses.

We have been particularly impressed with their focus on providing industry-recognized credentials to students, giving them the tools they need to enter the workforce or continue their education in college. By helping students earn these credentials, TECH CORPS is setting them up for success, opening doors to exciting career opportunities, and helping to solve the critical issue of developing a prepared workforce pipeline for the state's employers.

As a corporate partner of TECH CORPS, we have every confidence in the work that they are doing and the impact that they are making.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jackman

Lisa Jackman
Director, Corporate Responsibility
Hyland

Dear Ohio House and Senate Finance Committees:

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the incredible work that TECH CORPS is doing to support students in grades 3-12 to advance their technological education. As a corporate partner and supporter of their mission, I have been consistently impressed with the impact that TECH CORPS has made in communities across the country.

Our company understands the critical importance of preparing students for success in an increasingly technology-focused world. That is why we have been proud to partner with TECH CORPS to help provide opportunities for students to learn the skills and gain the experiences they need to succeed.

The work TECH CORPS is doing to expand access to technology programs, resources, and skills for all students is truly inspiring. Their commitment to developing a more technologically literate society is making a significant difference in the lives of countless students and families, as well as businesses.

We have been particularly impressed with their focus on providing industry-recognized credentials to students, giving them the tools they need to enter the workforce or continue their education in college. By helping students earn these credentials, TECH CORPS is setting them up for success, opening doors to exciting career opportunities, and helping to solve the critical issue of developing a prepared workforce pipeline for the state's employers.

As a corporate partner of TECH CORPS, we have every confidence in the work that they are doing and the impact that they are making.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jamie Timm, Chief Delivery Officer
WillowTree, a TELUS International Company

Dear Ohio House and Senate Finance Committees:

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the incredible work that TECH CORPS is doing to support students in grades 3-12 to advance their technological education. I work for Roto, a local design to fabrication firm that specializes in interactive exhibit and museum attractions. As a corporate partner and supporter of their mission, I have been consistently impressed with the impact that TECH CORPS has made in communities across the country.

Roto understands the critical importance of preparing students for success in an increasingly technology-focused world. That is why we have been proud to partner with TECH CORPS to help provide opportunities for students to learn the skills and gain the experiences they need to succeed.

The work TECH CORPS is doing to expand access to technology programs, resources, and skills for all students is truly inspiring. Their commitment to developing a more technologically literate society is making a significant difference in the lives of countless students and families, as well as businesses.

We have been particularly impressed with their focus on providing industry-recognized credentials to students, giving them the tools they need to enter the workforce or continue their education in college. By helping students earn these credentials, TECH CORPS is setting them up for success, opening doors to exciting career opportunities, and helping to solve the critical issue of developing a prepared workforce pipeline for the state's employers.

As a corporate partner of TECH CORPS, Roto has every confidence in the work that they are doing and the impact that they are making.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessie Hughes

School Programs & Exhibit Evaluation Manager

Roto

7001 Discovery Boulevard

Dublin, Ohio 43017 USA

+1 614 760 8690 x 248

roto.com