

Unlocking Tech Career Potential in Today's Students.

To say that the career opportunities in technology are growing rapidly is an understatement. High school students, a majority of whom have grown up as digital natives, may have a significant advantage. These young people have been fluent in the digital technology language from a very early age. This gives them an edge in the ability to capitalize on the tech industry's explosive growth.

From the moment they first swiped a screen, today's teens have been living in a digital world. Their daily interactions with technology aren't just about using apps or scrolling through social media; they're constantly learning and picking up skills, often without even realizing it. Managing multiple social media accounts, navigating user interfaces, and solving tech problems are all part of their everyday routine. These skills are the foundation of a tech-savvy future workforce. What's really exciting is how this early exposure to technology is already preparing them for successful careers in the tech industry, even before they finish high school.

As a counselor, you play a crucial role in guiding students towards successful careers. Understanding how today's students—digital natives—are uniquely positioned to excel in technology careers is essential. Their innate tech skills and daily digital interactions provide a valuable foundation for future success. Here are some examples and resources that students might find helpful.

Encourage project-based learning

Students could work on a project to develop a simple app or website, participate in a hackathon or build a portfolio site to showcase their knowledge and work.

- **GitHub:** Allows student to share and collaborate on coding projects. Explore [GitHub's Student Developer Pack](#) for tools and resources.
- Platforms like [Devpost](#) list various hackathons that students can participate in.
- Websites like [Codecademy](#) and [FreeCodeCamp](#) offer project-based learning opportunities.

Promote Extracurricular Activities

Encourage students to join a coding club, participate in a robotics team, or engage with online tech communities like our [Mighty Networks Tech Talk Community](#).

- Many schools have coding clubs; if not, students can start one using [Code.org](#) resources.
- Organizations like FIRST Robotics and [VEX Robotics](#) offer competitive and educational opportunities.
- Sites like [Mighty Networks Tech Talk Community](#) and [Reddit's r/learnprogramming](#) provide forums for tech enthusiasts.
- Career Technical Student Organizations like TSA, Skills USA and HOSA have competitive learning opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate technical skills and knowledge

By tapping into these resources and encouraging students to explore their interests in technology, you can help them build a strong foundation for a future in the tech industry. Your support and guidance can make a significant difference in how they channel their digital skills into meaningful, rewarding careers.