

EveryoneOn, in partnership with Best Buy, Trained High School Students in 7 Cities Nationwide to Prepare them for Competitive Careers in Technology



Student participants of the EveryoneOn and Best Buy's Bridges to Tech program



EveryoneOn and Best Buy teamed up to create *Bridges to Tech*, a program that provides high school students with technology skills, mentors and internships that prepare them for successful tech careers.

EveryoneOn and Best Buy Build Bridges to Tech

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in Pittsburgh, PA, 35% of low-income households with school-age children lack internet connection. 27% of Native American / Alaska Native students, 19% of Black students, and 17% of Hispanic¹ students lack internet at home or rely on dial up, making it impossible for them to participate fully in school. Best Buy, showing a commitment to community impact and supporting



students, specifically high schoolers, invited EveryoneOn to propose ideas for collaboration leveraging Best Buy's Teen Tech Center in Pittsburgh, PA to train students on diverse tech skills and career readiness. EveryoneOn seized the opportunity and in 2019 embarked on an innovative partnership with Best Buy which was also funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York. The program officially came to be called Bridges to Tech as a nod to the 466 bridges in "the City of Bridges" - Pittsburgh, PA.

¹ <https://beyondthelaptops.org/about/the-digital-divide/>



Students practicing tech skills during EveryoneOn and Best Buy's Bridges to Tech program

"The chance to make a difference in kids' lives keeps me going. Hearing students like one in my class say things that show their hunger for technology, "Tech is not the future, it's the now," makes me want to reach more students to cultivate that enthusiasm and knowledge."

— Daniel Cruz, Instructor

everyoneon
trained

**137 Students in
11 Cities**

From Local to National Growth and Success

In the initial program, EveryoneOn trained 17 students with comprehensive, hands-on learning via a robust curriculum, including video production, robotics, 3D printing, podcasting and audio engineering. EveryoneOn connected students with summer internships to grow their practical experience. Notable speakers from the students' same communities came to share inspiring stories of their own tech success. And a group of students delved into building battle bots, which they turned into a book. By 2021, the program had reached Bellevue (WA), Cleveland, Minneapolis and Salt Lake City. When COVID-19 prompted a shift to remote learning, EveryoneOn adapted, introducing Learning Initiative certifications through LinkedIn Learning (this time including young adults (those no longer in adolescence), ensuring continued skill development in a remote environment. In 2022, the program extended its impact to Houston, Dallas, Detroit, and Ft. Lauderdale, continuing to address the tech needs of students while also officially adding young adult populations to those served. The curriculum evolved to match the desires of the class participants, ensuring relevance, engagement and success.

Creating Strong Futures with Tech Education

Despite challenges, such as the disruption caused by the COVID years, EveryoneOn maintained its commitment to preparing students for college, trade schools, and careers. From 2020 to 2021, EveryoneOn trained 82 students across seven cities. As the *Bridges to Tech* partnership grows, EveryoneOn is working with additional Best Buy's Teen Tech Centers in Selma, St. Louis and Pittsburgh. The collaboration between EveryoneOn and Best Buy stands as a testament to the transformative power of strategic partnerships. Through innovative curriculum design, accessible resources, and a commitment to lifting diverse communities, *Bridges to Tech* has not only equipped high school students with competitive tech skills but has also paved the way for future success in an increasingly competitive digital world. Both Best Buy and EveryoneOn remain dedicated to providing transformative tech education opportunities as the partnership expands.

If you would like to learn more about EveryoneOn and investing in digital inclusion in under-resourced communities, visit www.EveryoneOn.org or contact us at support@EveryoneOn.org.