



Computer Science Pathways (STEM)

Career-Technical Education Program News from the Six District Educational Compact



Level II students visit Soft-Lite

Local IT business tours provide career exploration

Students participate in field trips to a variety of local industry partners in order to better understand the wide-range of IT career pathways, as well as local employment needs.

Level II students toured *Soft-Lite Windows & Doors* in Streetsboro where various IT professionals provided them with information on the company's networking configuration, server management and in-house software applications used to monitor inventory and improve production efficiency.



Aiden Siegfried (Stow-Munroe Falls), Charlie Clements (Stow-Munroe Falls), and Katie Benson (Hudson) analyze a user interface created by Hyland Software designers

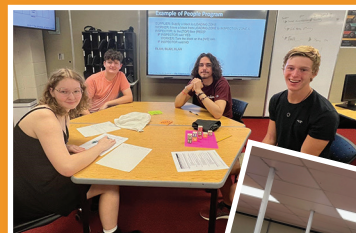
Level I students had the opportunity to visit *Hyland Software* in Westlake where they toured the expansive facility that includes in-house volleyball and basketball courts, a gaming room, a gymnasium and amenities for their employees including a clinic, salon, child care center, cafeteria, and slides to get from one floor to another! A



Nikki Smith, Soft-Lite Software Developer, showcases the company's two software applications to students

User Experience/User Interface (UX/UI) Designer shared insight with the students about the graphical layout and user experience design aspect of programs. An on-campus workshop provided students with hands-on programming tips and tricks from two of the company's lead software developers.

Classroom Happenings...



Building block algorithm activity

Programming language presentations



Web connections team-building activity



Tallest tower team-building activity



Level I students engage with IT professionals in round table discussions and interact with innovative technology and tech organizations at the 10th Annual Passport to IT Careers Expo in Cleveland



Six District Educational Compact

Cuyahoga Falls • Hudson • Kent • Stow-Munroe Falls • Tallmadge • Woodridge

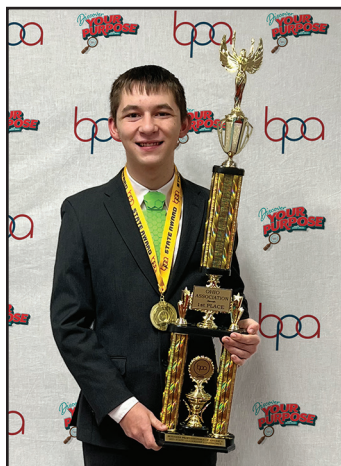
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CoolTech participants alongside Superintendent Tom Bratten, program instructor Terri Whitmer and sponsors Shon Christy and David Segen

Students shine at CoolTech Challenge

The in-depth and experiential learning that takes place in the Computer Science Pathway lab allows for students to apply the skills and knowledge learned through real-world projects. Last school year, teams of two were tasked with innovating and creating a mobile application to address a problem with a unique and impactful solution. Students worked hard for several months on their app creations. In April, the program hosted the CoolTech Challenge, where 11 teams presented their mobile application pitches to community members and school staff and students. **Shon Christy**, of the Stow Schools Foundation collaborated with program instructor, **Terri Whitmer**, to bring in members of the IT industry to judge the events and provide prizes. This project and showcase are great examples of how our program collaborates with the community as well as engages students with real-world projects.



Emmett Johnson proudly displays his 1st place trophy after the state BPA competition

Business Professionals of America

Computer Science Pathways students have the opportunity to join Business Professionals of America (BPA), the nation's leading CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management and information technology. Level II students compete in BPA's IT competitions. Last spring, program completer **Emmett Johnson**, won first place in Python Programming at the state competition. He proceeded on to win second place in Python Programming at the BPA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California in April 2023.

Computer Science program offers industry credentials

In 2023, Stow-Munroe Falls High School (SMFHS) became an authorized CompTIA Testing Center and 80% of the CSP students earned the CompTIA IT Fundamentals Industry Credentials.

This year, SMFHS has also become a Certiport Testing Center and provides training and testing with a wide variety of IT and programming topics for students to earn Industry Credentials.

Hear from our completers!



Tara Khanal, 2018 Cuyahoga Falls graduate and Computer Science Pathways (CSP) completer, began work as an IT Application Developer Associate at *Progressive* in 2022, after graduating from The University of Akron with a B.S. in Computer Science.

Tara shares that the CSP program gave him exposure to various computer science fundamentals, along with an extensive knowledge base that increased his confidence and preparedness for his postsecondary and career journey. Tara states, "for aspiring software developers, I wholeheartedly recommend seizing the opportunity presented by CTE. It not only demystifies the path but also equips you with a head start that can make all the difference."



Vibha Mandayam is a Stow-Munroe Falls High School '21 graduate and is currently attending Case Western Reserve University majoring in Data Science. Vibha is an Undergraduate Research Lab Assistant at CWRU's Solar Durability and

Lifetime Extension Center.

Vibha shares, "This program taught me the fundamentals of and logic behind both Java and SQL, giving me experience with object-oriented programming and relational database design. I also gained a lot of insight into team communication via the group projects assigned in the class. I would recommend the program to any students interested in computer or data sciences as it teaches many foundational concepts for those fields and offers students the opportunity to discover whether they would want to further pursue the field. It was also very helpful to attend professional networking events!"

