VIRTECH FOUNDATION

The Virtue of Technology

Who is VIRTECH?

VIRTECH is an independent non-profit foundation dedicated to assisting disadvantaged youth to succeed in their lives through organized educational programs in character formation uniquely combined with the professional use of new technologies with individual attention and participation of parents or guardians.

VIRTECH students will be leaders dedicated to positively transforming their lives, families, and communities, through character development and recognition of the virtue of technology.

Our History

The Foundation was created in 1995 in San Antonio, TX, with the original mission of providing at-risk* students with character development programs to prepare them to become upright citizens and community leaders.

We first expanded to Garland, TX in 2000, and Irving in 2003. We were helping approximately 120 students per week in Garland ISD.

As of 2020, we have shifted our focus to a technology-oriented empowerment approach based in the Houston metropolitan area dedicated to at-risk high school underclassmen.

* All of our students are considered to be "at-risk" by Federal Guidelines, and most have multiple risk factors.

Past Achievements

2010 - 2011	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2020
89% of our students passed overall the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test with 89% and 92% passing the critical Math and Reading, respectively. 95% of our students were promoted to the next grade. 100% of our fifth graders at Williams Elementary passed all three parts of the TAKS and were promoted.	100% of our Garland High Students graduated. 100% of our Students at Sam Houston were promoted. 97% of our Students at Sellers Middle School were promoted. 95% of our Students at Williams Elementary were promoted.	100% of our high school seniors graduated on time. 93.3% passed STAAR math (vs. 79% for the state). 88.1% passed STAAR reading (vs. 83% for the state).	Formal change of direction in the Virtech Foundation, maintaining a dedication to human virtues and adding a new focus on empowering high school students through different technologies. We have moved our main operations to Houston, TX.

How Does Technology Enable Empowerment?

We believe that technology gives opportunities to empower at-risk students with knowledge and hands-on experience that leads to the highest levels of personal, social, academic, and professional success.

We enable these students to obtain professional certifications that are among the highest in demand in the American information technology industry.

Each of our students is given the opportunity to excel in our programs through one-to-one mentors who assist with ensuring program success.

At the same time, we have to make sure these technologies empower students to make good choices as they become more adept to using these tools on their own. This is why we combine learning about technology with developing human virtues, to empower our students with the virtue of technology to be a force for good for future generations.

Why We Mentor

We believe that one of the most sacred responsibilities of any generation is to prepare the next one. We want our students to learn about life and to become solid citizens who form strong families and become leaders in their communities.

We believe our students want to be challenged to explore the human virtues that give life value (prudence, wisdom, courage, and justice). We want our students to know that responsibility and freedom go hand in hand, and that the only way to become happy is to make others happy.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION

Helping the 'whole person'

GISD mentor program gives hope, help to kids in need

By HANNAH DeCLERK
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When Italo Gutierrez was in fourth grade, his principal told him that he saw the inside of her office more often than she did.

At the time, he was a Williams Elementary School student who was facing issues at home and had a hard time concentrating in class because of his limited English proficiency.

But that was before he met Antonio "Toni" del Rincon, then a mentor with the Youth Achievement Foundation, which helps disadvantaged youths by providing supplementary educational programs.

Seeing himself

When Rincon spotted Italo from across the room, he didn't see a troublesome 9-year-old.

"He seemed like someone who needed to be helped out, and he reminded me a lot of myself when I was that age," Rincon recalled, adding that he moved to the United States from Mexico when he was 12.

At their first session, he spoke to Italo in Spanish, and they talked for two hours straight.

At the end of the session, Rincon handed his phone number to Italo.

"I liked the fact he focused on me, and asked me questions about me and my life," said Italo, now 22.

Through middle school, however, his home life continued to make it difficult to focus on academics and smart decisions.

In high school, Italo said he became heavily involved in gang activity after his brother was killed by a rival gang in California.

He said it was Toni's advice that led him to quit gang activity and focus on his future.

In 2008, Italo graduated from high school with 27 college credit hours — an accomplishment he credits to Antonio's constant presence.

Today, he is at Richland College and hopes to become a police officer. He said he and Antonio keep a close relationship and call each other almost every week.

A solid foundation

The Youth Achievement Foundation was brought to the Dallas area 12 years ago by former mortgage broker, Joseph Walker.

What made the program stand apart from others was Walker's dedication to developing the "whole person" by stressing character formation as well as academic achievement.

"A statistic the district gave us, a typical kid we are dealing with gets about 18 minutes of individual attention from an adult per week. We give them one to two hours of individual attention," said Walker, who today serves as the executive director of the foundation.

"It is a matter of more than anything else putting an adult in their life. That is the single most important thing we do."

Hands-on help

Youth Achievement Foundation volunteer mentors are from both outside and inside the school district.

Garland High School principal Atticus Wisener serves as a mentor every other Saturday at the high school.

"It is almost like we camouflage the mentoring in place of the fellowship and the camaraderie," Wisener said.
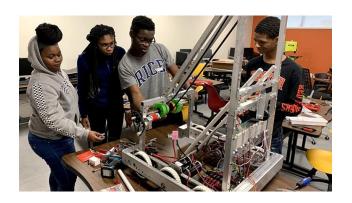
Camouflaged or not, the mentoring has helped reach hundreds of children in Garland ISD and continues to be a resource for students and families.

"To be honest, I am glad Joe [Walker] and Toni did not give up on me because I was giving up on myself," Italo said. "What they did for me ... it is a blessing I do not know how to pay back."

Neighborsgo reporter Hannah DeClerk can be reached at 214-977-8051

Staff photos by HANNAH DeCLERK/neighborsgo

Ashley Young, Youth Achievement Foundation mentor, talks to a group of students at a session at Williams Elementary.

Transitioning to Technology and Virtue

After a change in direction, we have rebranded our efforts to integrate our original mission of character formation with a focus on providing programs for high school students to enhance aptitudes in technology.

Our unique approach contributes to an ethical design and skills development that is conducive to the right kind of virtue ethics, "technomoral virtues," that become more relevant for students interested in entering STEM fields, as well as the growing demand for employees with technological skills.
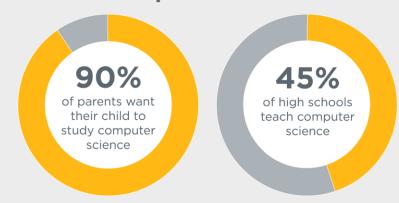
Why Technology?

Source: Code.org
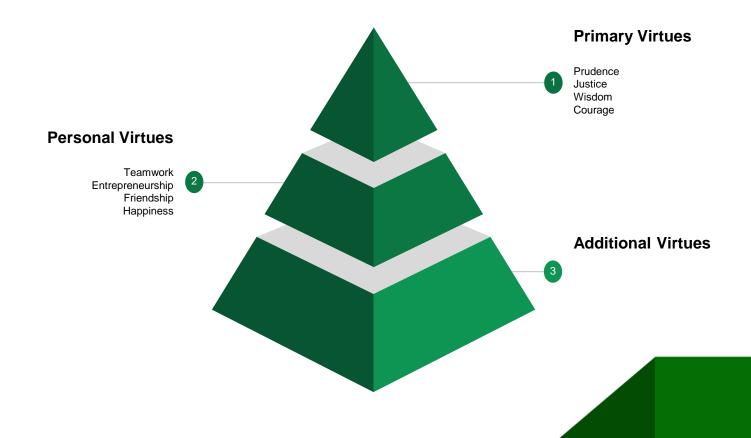
The value of a computer science education

$.58M
lifetime earnings of a high school graduate*

$1.19M
lifetime earnings of a college graduate*

$1.67M
lifetime earnings of a computer science major*

A computer science major can earn **40% more** than the college average.

*Net present value today

The majority of schools don't teach computer science

90% of parents want their child to study computer science

45% of high schools teach computer science

Focus on Human Virtues:

Primary Virtues

1

Prudence
Justice
Wisdom
Courage

Personal Virtues

Teamwork
Entrepreneurship
Friendship
Happiness

2

Additional Virtues

3

Build an organization based on the following programs:

- Hands-on training based on new and emerging technologies

- Certification programs

- Annual technology marathon

- Extracurricular activities

- Educational programs for parents/guardians

- Research and advocacy of highlighted technologies and human virtues

- Programs dedicated to technological entrepreneurship

- Summer programs
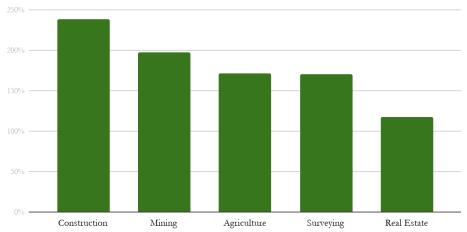
Featured Technology Programs:
Drone Piloting
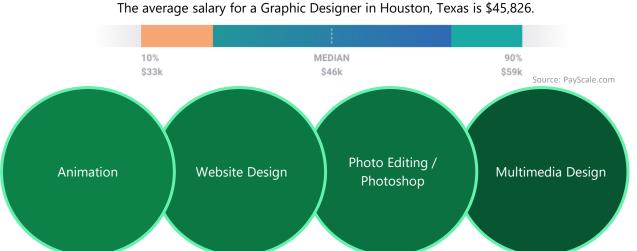
YoY Growth in Industry Adoption of Drones (2018)

Source: DroneDeploy.com

250%	
200%	
150%	
100%	
50%	
0%	Construction Mining Agriculture Surveying Real Estate

Featured Technology Programs:
Graphic Design

The average salary for a Graphic Designer in Houston, Texas is $45,826.

10%	MEDIAN	90%
$33k	$46k	$59k

Animation

Website Design

Photo Editing / Photoshop

Multimedia Design

Featured Technology Programs:
Social Media Management

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT

SOCIAL MEDIA BRANDING

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTING
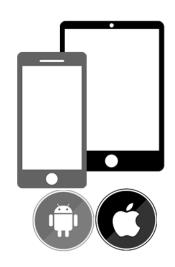
The average salary for a Social Media Manager is $50,661.

10%	MEDIAN	90%
$35k	$51k	$78k

Source: PayScale.com

Featured Technology Programs:
Mobile App Development

Mobile App Developer Salaries

3,291 Salaries   Updated Mar 9, 2020

Very High Confidence

| Industries ▾ | Company Sizes ▾ | Years of Experience ▾ |

Average Base Pay

$96,016 /yr

$64K Low $96K Average $140K High

Additional Cash Compensation ?

| Average | $7,625 |
| Range | $677 - $14,535 |

How much does a Mobile App Developer make?
The national average salary for a Mobile App Developer is $96,016 in United States. Filter by location to... More

Salaries for Related Job Titles

Android App Developer	$70K
Android Mobile Applications D...	$96K
Android Developer	$96K
Android Mobile Applications D...	$96K
Mobile Developer	$96K

ANDROID & iOS

Featured Technology Programs:
Network Administration

Employees with a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) Certification
Salary Ranges by Job

Job Title	National Salary Data (?)	$0	$60K	$120K
Network Engineer 1370 salaries	$44,571 - $92,523			
Sr. Network Engineer 551 salaries	$67,482 - $118,829			
Network Administrator 518 salaries	$39,220 - $78,552			
Information Technology (IT) Manager 403 salaries	$50,793 - $111,412			
Systems Administrator 280 salaries	$41,486 - $86,491			

CISCO
CERTIFIED
CCNA
ROUTING &
SWITCHING

CompTIA
Get IT Certified

Featured Technology Programs:
Cloud Systems Administration

EC2

Lambda

Elastic Beanstalk

AWS Auto Scaling

Virtual Machine

Functions

App Service

Virtual Machine Scale Sets

Azure Architect Salary

Yearly   Monthly   Weekly   Hourly

$97,000

National Average

$201,500

$150,087/year

Microsoft Azure

Cloud Engineer salaries in United States

$118,590 per year
Based on 16,856 salaries

aws

Min
$47,000

Max
$222,000

Entrepreneurship Program:

How to start a business

Business regulations and corporate profitability in the United States

Avenues for financing entrepreneurship

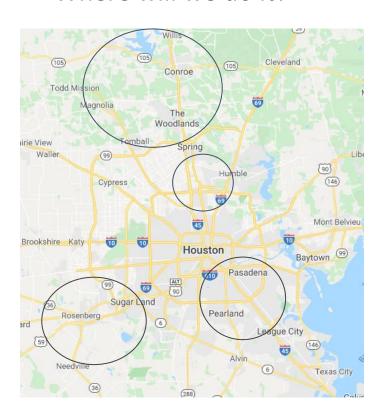Operations (management, expenses)

Business ethics

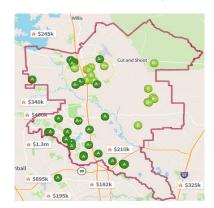**Community support**

Leadership

Intercultural awareness

Where will we do it?

Houston and Surrounding Areas

VIRTECH Phase One: Designated Areas

Conroe ISD
North Houston, TX

Total number of students:
59,764
Free lunch recipients:
35.7%
Average annual household income:
$54,258
#65 largest school district in USA

Montgomery ISD
North Houston, TX

Total number of students:
8,837
Free lunch recipients:
24.1%
Average annual household income:
$74,323

Willis ISD
North Houston, TX

Total number of students:
7,311
Free lunch recipients:
58.6%
Average annual household income:
$42,243

When will we start our initial activities?

Virtech Introductory Presentation

Inaugural address (TBD):
Francisco Ortigosa
Innovation Technology Director at Repsol, Repsol Technology
Ambassador, Public Speaker.

TBD
Guest lecturer (Microsoft Corporation)
How to empower future generations with technology.

TBD
Lecture: How to be successful in our lives through human virtues
Virtues and their impact on our personal development.

The Virtue of Technology