



UTP  
Urban Technology Project

## About Us

The Urban Technology Project (UTP) empowers Philadelphia youth and their communities through meaningful technological experiences that link youth leadership, education and community development. UTP programs involve a continuum of service-learning and school-to-work experiences that provide long-term, holistic support for urban youth. These programs begin in middle school, continue through high school and extend into post-secondary opportunities. UTP is an initiative of The School District of Philadelphia and Communities In Schools of Philadelphia, Inc., with additional support from various public and private partners.

## Our Philosophy

UTP is built on embracing the intellect, heart and soul of young people. The educational focus of the program develops life-skills, promotes a culture of life-long learning, and encourages critical analysis of our social and economic realities. Service-learning experiences, which allow youth to connect with and enhance their communities, thus nurturing their hearts. The support our members provide to youth, as they develop their own identities and navigate the transition between their backgrounds and futures, engages their soul.



### Digital Service Fellows (DSF) AmeriCorps Program

The Digital Service Fellows (DSF) AmeriCorps Program is an award-winning, year-long service-learning experience for recent Philadelphia high school graduates who are interested in serving their community while acquiring meaningful technical skills, ranging from computer repair and programming to graphic design. Each Fellow is mentored by a District IT professional for the full year. This service model is a win-win for Fellows, mentors and schools. Fellows receive on-the-job training and can earn industry standard certifications, a stipend and a Segal Education Award upon completion of the program. Mentors have an opportunity to pass on their knowledge and schools receive needed technological support. Fellows also support and lead in-school and after-school technology clubs and trainings for students, teachers and parents. The most outstanding Fellows are accepted into the Computer Support Specialist Program, expanding their IT career opportunities.

### Computer Support Specialists (CSS) Registered IT Apprenticeship Program

The Computer Support Specialists (CSS) Program is a Registered IT Apprenticeship Program with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry - the only one of its kind in the state. Computer Support Specialists serve as apprentices for a minimum of two years, during which they provide technical support to schools and offices throughout the District. Participants are primarily recruited from the pool of qualified Digital Service Fellows alumni. Upon meeting the requirements of the apprenticeship agreement, graduates of the program earn a Journeyman Certificate, confirming that they possess the practical and technical proficiencies of the trade and have met the rigorous requirements of the training program.

### TechServ

TechServ clubs, led by UTP team members, help middle school and high school students develop advanced technology skills while addressing issues of digital inclusion in their communities. The in-school and after-school clubs provide students hands-on experiences with programming, digital media production, web design and computer repair. Early exposure to these STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) topics enhances Philadelphia students' proficiency in STEM, preparing them to excel in these subjects and equipping them for 21st century jobs. Finally, through service-learning activities, students pass on what they have learned to their families, schools and communities.

### For more information, please contact:

Edison Freire  
Director and Founder  
efreire@philasd.org

Beth St. Clair  
Program Manager  
estclair@cisphl.org

### Stay Connected

[www.utp-philly.org](http://www.utp-philly.org)

 Urban Technology Project

 @UTP\_Philly

