First Tech Fund x Futures Without Violence

November 2021

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Why We Started

Who We Are

Our Model

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Why we started

For many underserved communities, they face a number of **systemic challenges** that make it nearly impossible to break out of generational cycles of poverty:

12 million students are impacted by the digital divide in the United States

EdSurge, 2020

44% of New Yorkers who are living in poverty have no broadband connection.

The Gothamist, 2020

2% of NYC workers possess the in-demand skills that employers seek.

NYC Tech Talent Pipeline, 2016

55% more likely to enroll in college if underserved students receive mentorship in high school.

Civic Enterprises and Hart Research, 2014

First Tech Fund provides **free laptops & hotspots** for underserved high school students in NYC

130+ laptops disbursed since 2020

First Tech Fund provides **free unlimited internet** for students and their families for 1+ years

100+families benefited since 2020

First Tech Fund provides **skills training and career development training** to all students to prepare them for employment

52 guest speakers and counting since 2020

First Tech Fund **pairs students with mentors** in fields they've expressed interest in, meeting 1x a month for the school year

Mentors from 15+ industries

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First Tech Fund is an award-winning nonprofit **dedicated to closing the digital divide** by empowering students of underserved backgrounds in New York City through a year-long high school fellowship that includes technology, practical skills, and opportunities to succeed in the modern world.

Tech Access

Each of our Fellows receives a Chromebook and hotspot with unlimited data for the school year to access our curriculum, social services and beyond.

Community Building

Through their connection to one another, students are able to build a tight knit community that empowers them to pursue career and personal development opportunities.

Skills Training

We help students gain skills for 21st century opportunities, like email writing, brand building, public speaking, resume writing, financial literacy, and more.

Career Exploration

Students can't be what they can't see - 95% of our speakers identified as BIPOC and shared their lived and professional experiences with our cohort, often exposing students to new career fields and roles in finance, tech, healthcare, law,

Mentorship

Our Fellows are paired with young professionals in a number of different industries that they express interest in, so they could learn from those they strive to be.

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Team

Executive Team

Josue De Paz, CEO & Co-Founder

Hana Seligman, COO & Co-Founder

Board of Directors

Jerome Sanders
Emerging Technologies & Incubation, Cisco

Rodney Cruz Pizarro,
Legal, Airbnb

Jamal Adams
Principal, La Salle High

Branden Crouch
Senior Associate, Strategy&

Nicole Chin-Lyn
PR Consultant

Nakia Alston-Hendrickson
Development Director @ Community Voices Heard

Advisory Board

Jaime Novak
Associate Director of Mentor Community @ iMentor

Ricardo Pedroarias
Administration & Teacher @ Loyola High

Megan Eiss
Advisor + Founder & CEO at Heddy Consulting

Fernando Snowden-Lorence
Vice President, Corporate Responsibility, JP Morgan

Crystel Harris, Ed.L.D.
Director, People Team at NewSchools Venture Fund

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Curriculum

Through bi-monthly panels, workshops, office hours, and structured mentoring sessions, we've empowered Fellows with exposure to professional paths, networking opportunities to aid their goals, and future versions of themselves to aspire to.

Digital and Skills Foundations:

- ➔ Digital Foundations 101
- ➔ Resume building 101
- ➔ Financial Education / Wellness: How to be a Money Smart Teen
- ➔ Remote learning etiquette and norms including how to ask questions, strategies for staying engaged, and how to effectively use different video-conferencing tools
- ➔ Google Suite 101 including how to track jobs or internships in Google Sheets, and more

Career Pathways:

- ➔ Perspectives from current law students and lawyers
- ➔ Why Medicine? A panel on medical school and steps it took to get there
- ➔ Building your own business: Perspectives from entrepreneurs on starting nonprofits and companies
- ➔ Influencing on the Internet: How to side hustle on YouTube & social media
- ➔ Working in the tech industry: It's not just coding!
- ➔ Changing the world: Is a career in social impact for you?

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We've hosted professionals of all backgrounds to inspire our students of all the possibilities and more

CEO of Grillz and Granola Founder and CEO of Turnkey Independent Hip Hop Artist Mental Health Advocate

Ph.D Candidate for Electrical Engineering, Rice University Chemical Engineer, Shiseido Biomedical Engineer

Associate Director of Admissions at Gonzaga University Law Clerk at First Circuit COA, former Associate at Paul Weiss

Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem US Legislative and Regulatory Supervising Associate at EY Lead Product

Counsel at Facebook Head of Venture Growth and Partnerships at Republic Associate at Marcus by Goldman Sachs

VP Corporate Responsibility at JP Morgan Associate Partner Manager, Sports at Twitter Senior Product Manager,

Risk Platform at Venmo Healthcare Navigator at Eden Health Doula MD/PhD Nursing Program at Columbia

University Administrative Fellow at NYU Published Author Product Marketing Manager at Rent the Runway

Blogger Copywriter at M Booth Wellness & Beauty Storyteller

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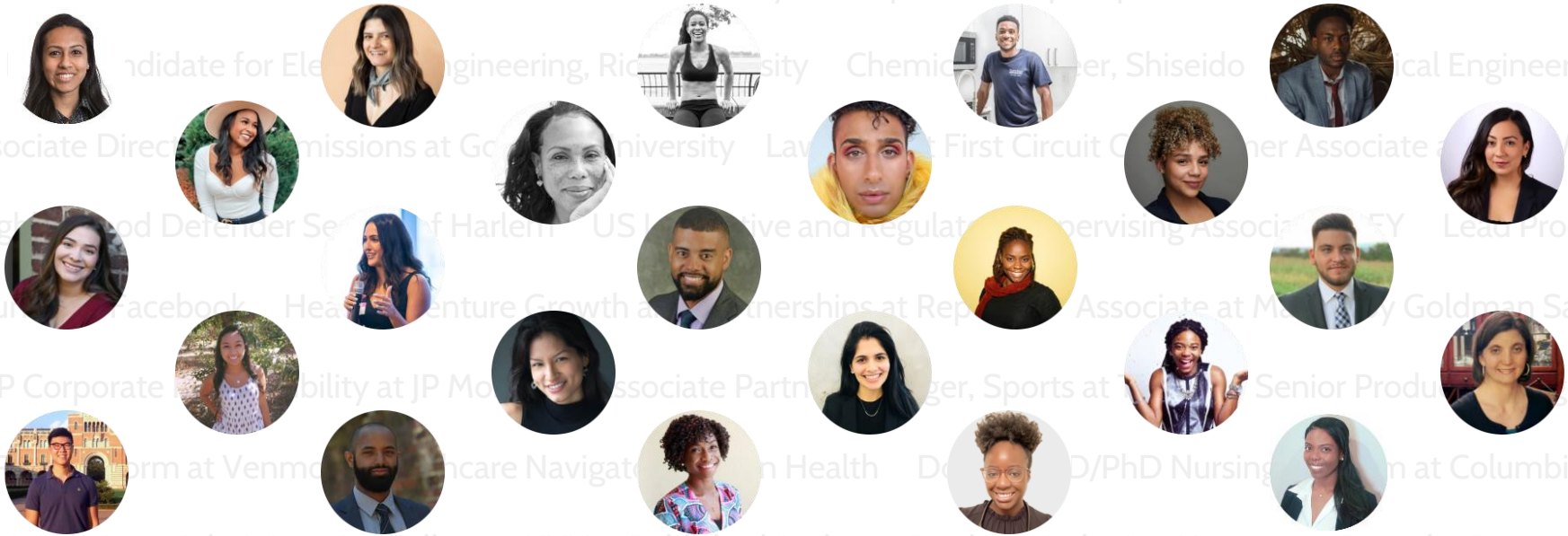

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Our Impact

95%

Of college eligible students from 2020 enrolled in 2 or 4 year institutions.

120

Laptops distributed during the global pandemic to students in need.

99.2%

Of our students identify as low-income and students of color.

100%

Of our surveyed students would recommend the First Tech Fund fellowship program to a friend or family member.

80%

of students stated that the WiFi benefitted not only them but their families (siblings, parents, etc) to access school, social services and more.

88.6%

of students surveyed were accepted to college and/or other extra-curricular / pre-career programs.

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In order to drive impact and equip our students with the digital skills that they need to be successful, we look at the following factors:

What activities will propel them forward and what skills do they need to have in order to access them?	**First Tech Fund** works with leadership and student advisors to understand the main priorities that students have **First Tech Fund** creates a series of events to teach the material with a hands-on approach **First Tech Fund** creates a sense of community where learners feel as if they are learning with each other, instead of around each other
Does FTF possess the necessary skills to teach these skills or is it necessary to outsource the work?	**First Tech Fund** provides virtual training themselves or brings in experts to teach sections of the programming
Do participants have the tools they need to join the session & absorb the info?	**First Tech Fund** provides each student with a laptop & internet access should they request it

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Our Best Practices

For those who have never been exposed to or are not familiar with digital skills, it's important to try and follow the best practices outlined below:

- **Break it up in digestible chunks**
    - There are hours of content you could teach, but sometimes it's better to go deep and make the skill stick, than to go wide and have
- **Share then show**
    - It's important to be able to walk through a real life example when teaching - i.e. if you're doing something on excel, share your screen and do the activity as they watch
- **Leave space for questions**
    - Some of the content can be hard to get the first go around – our students always know that we take a pause at every section for questions or for a deeper walkthrough
- **Provide resources for self-mastery**
    - Often students have their own questions or want to explore further. The appendix always has further learning

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Thank you!

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