ChickTECH

ChickTech is a nonprofit organization committed to increasing the participation of girls and women in STEM while creating a culture of inclusion for all. We organize local conferences, hands-on workshops and mentoring support for K-12 and professionals to boost participants' sense of belonging, interest, and self-confidence in technology and engineering.

WHAT WE DO

ChickTech is dedicated to retaining women in the technology workforce and increasing the number of girls pursuing technology-based careers. From programming arduinos to getting advice on technical interviewing, our programs build community, empower participants to see themselves as technologists and leaders, and provide networking and mentoring opportunities in the rapidly growing tech industry. We also work one-on-one with companies to help them create more inclusive workplace cultures.

ChickTech: High School

One of our signature programs is **ChickTech: High School**, which supplements traditional education and provides a supportive community for young women to learn how to create technology. Our ideal participants are girls who do not see themselves as technical but who have the aptitude to do very well in technical fields. We place additional emphasis on recruiting at-risk and low-income participants. By increasing their self-confidence and interest in technology, we increase the number of girls who aspire to technology careers. This important work is shaping the workforce of tomorrow to have the diverse skills and perspectives needed for the industry to thrive.

ACT–W Conference

Another major program is our **ACT-W** (Advancing the Careers of Technical Women) conference. In collaboration with local companies and non-profits, our chapters organize a weekend event with interactive discussions, resume reviews, mock interviews, a career fair, and career and technical workshops for women of all experience levels.

> " **A great experience! I feel supported and important!**"
> – Samantha S., 11th

CURRENT SUCCESS

In 2015, ChickTech spread nationwide. We now have over 650 volunteers across the country and are growing daily. Varying by location, our all-volunteer chapters run summer camps for elementary and middle school students, our year-long high school program, the ACT-W conference, and meetup groups.

ChickTech: High School has shown tremendous results:
– 55% of our participants had no experience creating tech projects before choosing ChickTech
– participants who felt "confident" or "very confident" in their technology skills increased from **27% to 74%**
– participants who felt "informed" or "well informed" about technology increased from **46% to 91%**

At ACT-W, 92% of attendees felt welcome, included, and represented...and plan to attend next year.

FUTURE PLANS

In 2016, we will continue growing the ChickTech movement. We are set to double the number of active chapters and expand the programs offered at our current locations. We are also rolling out two new services for companies--culture consulting and a job board to connect diverse candidates with inclusive and welcoming companies. We will continue to build a strong community of people actively working to create equal opportunities for girls and women in technology, and support women as they reach for the fulfilling career they deserve.

At ChickTech: High School, we increased the number of high school participants who were "interested" or "very interested" in a tech career from 47% to 89% ...in only one weekend.