TechTogether

2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Making the future better, together (**virtually**)

ABOUT TECHTOGETHER

TechTogether, the nation's largest initiative to address the gender inequities in the hackathon community, supports over 13,000 hackers. Since TechTogether was founded in 2017, the representation of women and non-binary individuals participating in hackathons has more than doubled.

OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

Fiona Whittington
Co-Founder & Executive Director

Lisa Vu
Co-Founder & Advisor

Kelly Ly
Chapter Coordinator

Sreeya Sai
Co-Founder & Advisor

Michelle Ly
Program Management Intern

DEANA JACKSON, HACKER

"I walked away from this hackathon with more than I could have imagined, friends, connections, a ReadMe for my GitHub Profile, technical interview tips, and general stoke about connecting with others and continuing on my path"

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Hackathons are the easiest and fastest way to inspire an individual to pursue a career in technology and build a technical skill-set.

However, due to stereotypes and other societal barriers, people of marginalized genders have traditionally been underrepresented in the hackathon community.

Gender-focused hackathons combat these barriers by fostering safe and inclusive environments. Gender-focused hackathons can be used as both recruitment and retention tools for people of marginalized genders in the hackathon community, and broader tech community.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Hackathons are inaccessible to people of marginalized genders largely due to social barriers.

OUR MISSION

Increase the gender diversity and inclusion of the hackathon community.

OUR STRATEGY

Provide safe and inclusive hackathons for people of marginalized genders that are accessible and affordable.

UNIQUE APPROACH

All of our hackathons remain led by community volunteers. This allows us to continue building up a grassroots movement from the bottom up.

OUR VISION

Achieve gender parity in the United States hackathon community.

OVERVEW OF PROGRAMS

This year, TechTogether focused on expanding and refining existing programs.

We launched these new initiatives with the aim of creating more opportunities for hackers to engage with TechTogether outside of our hackathons.

CHAPTER PROGRAM (COLLEGE-FOCUSED)

The Chapter Program is a training program designed to equip organizers with the skills, resources, and support to host a TechTogether hackathon in their city.

PREHACKS (HIGH SCHOOL)

PreHacks is a free one-day program for high schoolers in the TechTogether community to learn more about career paths in STEM and learn coding fundamentals.

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS (PUBLIC)

TechTogether co-hosts 1-3 workshops per month for the public to bring new hackers into the TechTogether communty.

ALUMNI COMMITTEE (INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS)

TechTogether's Alumni committee supports our growing community of new graduates and industry professionals.

RESEARCH

TechTogether publishes a research report every year on a topic at the intersection of diversity and hackathons.

TECHTOGETHER'S 2021-2022 HACKATHON SEASON SNAPSHOT

2,223
HACKERS SERVED

52.3%
FIRST-TIME
HACKERS

$24K
AWARDED IN
PRIZES

226
WORKSHOPS &
ACTIVITIES

95%
HACKATHON
RECOMMENDATION
RATING

6,176
HACKATHON
REGISTRATIONS

168
PROJECT
SUBMISSIONS

**2 NEW CHAPTERS
IN MIAMI & CHICAGO**

TECHTOGETHER EXPANDS GLOBAL IMPACT & NATIONAL PROGRAMS

This 2021-2022 hackathon season, TechTogether opened up two new chapter locations in Miami and Chicago. In total, our 6 chapter's served 2,223 individuals through our virtual gender-focused hackathons. Of these hackers, 52% had never attended a hackathon before.

A majority of our community remains college students (36%) studying computer science with a growing representation of high school students (17%) and post-grads or Bootcamp students (22%).

TechTogether equips our community with the skills, experience, and confidence to pursue a career in technology.

88% said we positively influenced their decision to pursue a major, minor, or bootcamp program in computer science, computer engineering, or information technology.

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28.4% of hackers have a hackathon project current listed on their resume.

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95% said we positively influenced their decision to pursue a employment opportunities in the tech industry.

22.4% of hackers have spoken about their hackathon project in an interview.

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HACKATHON QUALITY RATING

On average, TechTogether's hackathons this season had a 95% recommendation rating.

This hackathon season, TechTogether provided a total of $24k in prizes, 91 challenges, and 226 workshops/activities.

These resources led to the creation of 168 projects created by teams of 2-4 hackers.

PREHACKS & NEW PROGRAMS

PreHacks is a free one-day program for high schoolers in our community to learn more about career paths in STEM and learn coding fundamentals.

PreHacks was hosted 5 times before each major TechTogether hackathon and served 133 high school students. The program had an average 97.6% recommendation rating and offered a total of 35 workshops.

SIYA JARIWALA
PREHACKS ATTENDEE

"PreHacks completely changed my perspective on hackathons. For the longest time, I let my fear conquer me and didn't attend a hackathon.

My mind was jumbled up with a bunch of what-ifs. What if I don't find a team?... TechTogether PreHacks answered all of my what-ifs."

OUR GROWING HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY

PreHacks fulfilled its goal of funneling more high schoolers into the hacker community, **75.5% of attendees converted into TechTogether hackathon participants.** This is double the conversation rate from the 2020-2021 hackathon season.

Did you know that 65.7% of hackathon attendees this hackathon season said TechTogether gave them the confidence to attend future non-TechTogether hackathons?

OUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

The shift to hosting virtual hackathons, allowed hackers from around the world to participate in our hackathons. We estimate that 21% of our attendees were from outside the United States. Most of our international hackers came from Canada or India.

TechTogether's community is largely made up of hackers from these top 10 universities:

1. Florida International University
2. Mount Holyoke College
3. Queens College, CUNY
4. The University of Washington
5. Georgia Institute of Technology
6. New York University
7. Northeastern University
8. Boston University
9. The University of Florida
10. Western Governors University

ROWAN POLSTER, HACKER

"TechTogether elevated the voices of those too often underrepresented in tech, and the results, for me, were life-changing."

CULTIVATING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF TECHNOLOGISTS

TechTogether continues to serve one of the most diverse hackathon communities in the word.

This past year, TechTogether served 22.4% of hackers from non-traditional backgrounds (ie. bootcamps, recent grads).

This hackathon season TechTogether increased the representation of Black and Hispanic-identifying hackers to 12% (4% increase) and 9.5% (1.5% increase) respectively from the previous season.

OUR CHAPTER PROGRAM

TechTogether hackathons are able to be community-led through our Chapter Program. TechTogether supported 97 organizers in the planning of their respective chapter hackathons.

According to our exit surveys, 69% of our organizers, this year reported using their TechTogether experience during interviews and 93% said they would recommend the experience to a friend.

TechTogether is proud to share that 24% of our organizers reported landing a job from being a TechTogether organizer and a majority report that the program helped them learn relevant and useful professional skills.

TECHTOGETHER SEATTLE ORGANIZERS

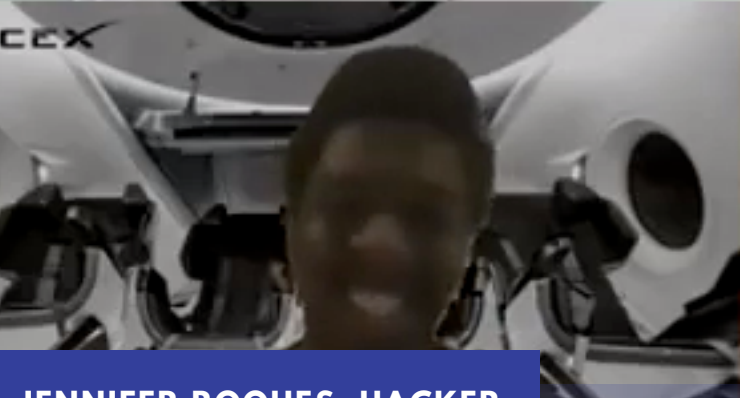### ERYN GAUTIER, TECHTOGETHER ALMNAE

"Working with TechTogether for just about two years was the most fulfilling experience in terms of the work, the teams, the hackers and the incredibly influential events we have been able to organize. After my first hackathon, I just knew I'd be coming back and I'm grateful for the opportunities TechTogether has given me since then."
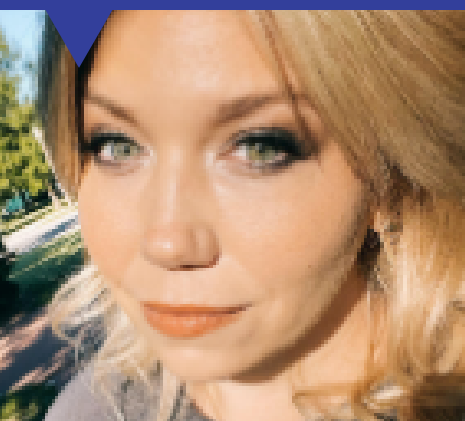
MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

From March to September, TechTogether partners with community leaders to provide professional development workshops open to the public.

TechTogether's workshops cover a range of topics, but a majority are beginner-friendly skill-building or career development workshops. On average, each workshop serves 30-40 individuals.

DEMYSTIFYING VIRTUAL HACKATHONS: ADVICE FOR FIRST-TIME HACKERS W/ SHELLHACKS

JENNIFER ROQUES, HACKER

"Going into the hackathon without knowing what to expect, I was impressed. If you needed support, you received it, bottom line–and it came from a safe space.

I never felt judged or condescended in any way. TechTogether really provided an inclusive space for underrepresented people in tech, and us developers could really build each other up!"

TechTogether

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