

TECH TEAM & DIGITAL AMBASSADORS NEWSLETTER

APR 2025



This month, we heard from Ms. Angela Richardson from Halifax County about the incredible work her Tech Team is doing at Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy.

Ms. Richardson has organized her Tech Team to operate as a help desk, with a structured system that has designated stations for each step in the repair process: receiving, sorting, waiting, fixing, charging, quality control (with pass and no-pass areas), problem devices, cleaning, and return to school. Chromebooks are picked up and dropped off for repairs at least twice a month, and the impact the team has had on the district has been huge! The team has an impressive 95.5% return-to-school rate for repaired Chromebooks!

The quality control station has also proven to be a great way to engage students who may not be interested in other stages of the repair process. In addition to repairs, Ms. Richardson tracks data on which school's devices are coming from and the issues they have, helping to identify trends and work with school administrators to address device damage proactively. When possible, she also invites guest speakers to talk with her students, providing exposure to career pathways.

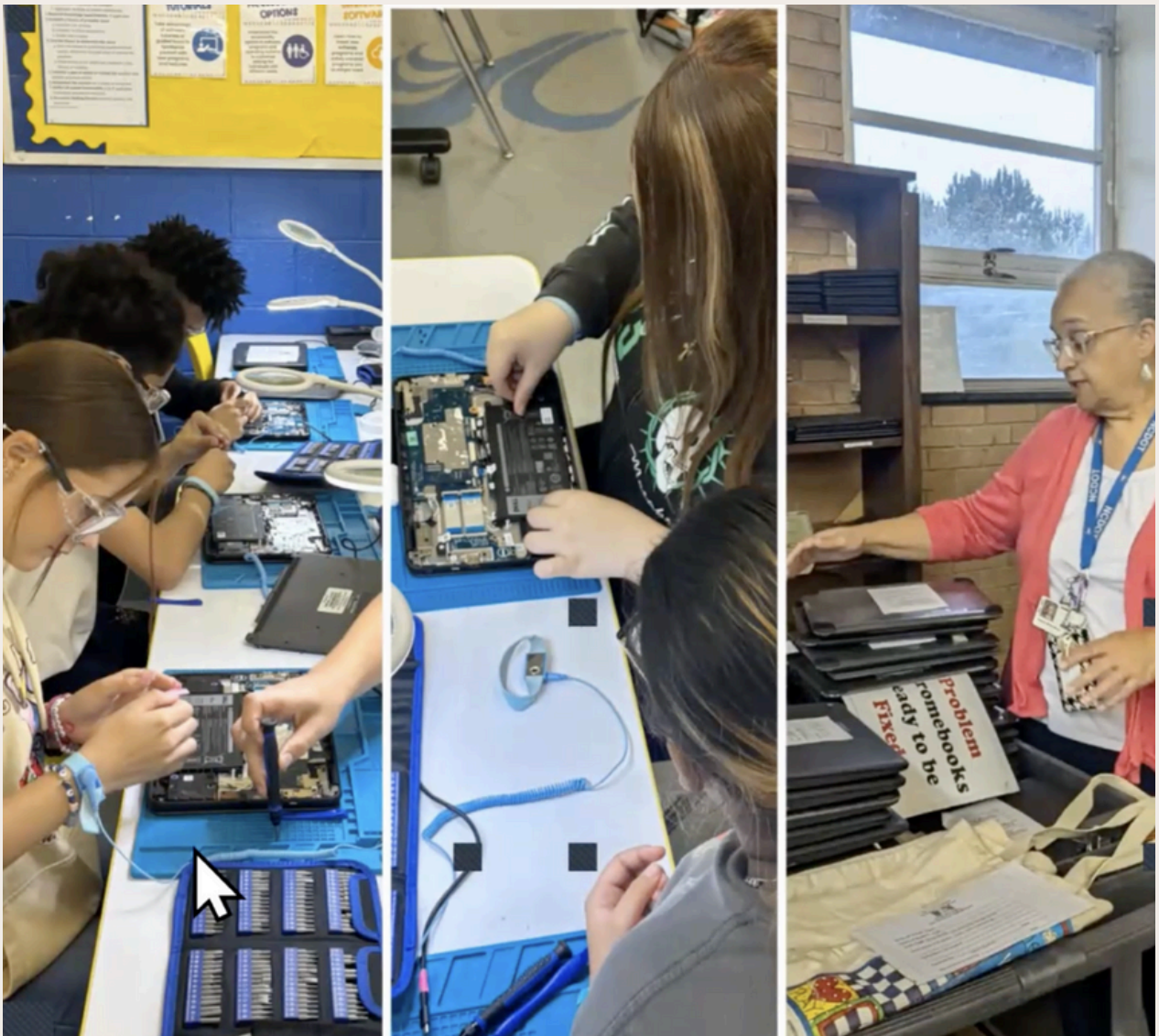




Halifax County was one of the first counties to join the Tech Team program, and they are definitely success story. Thank you, Ms. Richardson, for sharing your team's work with us!

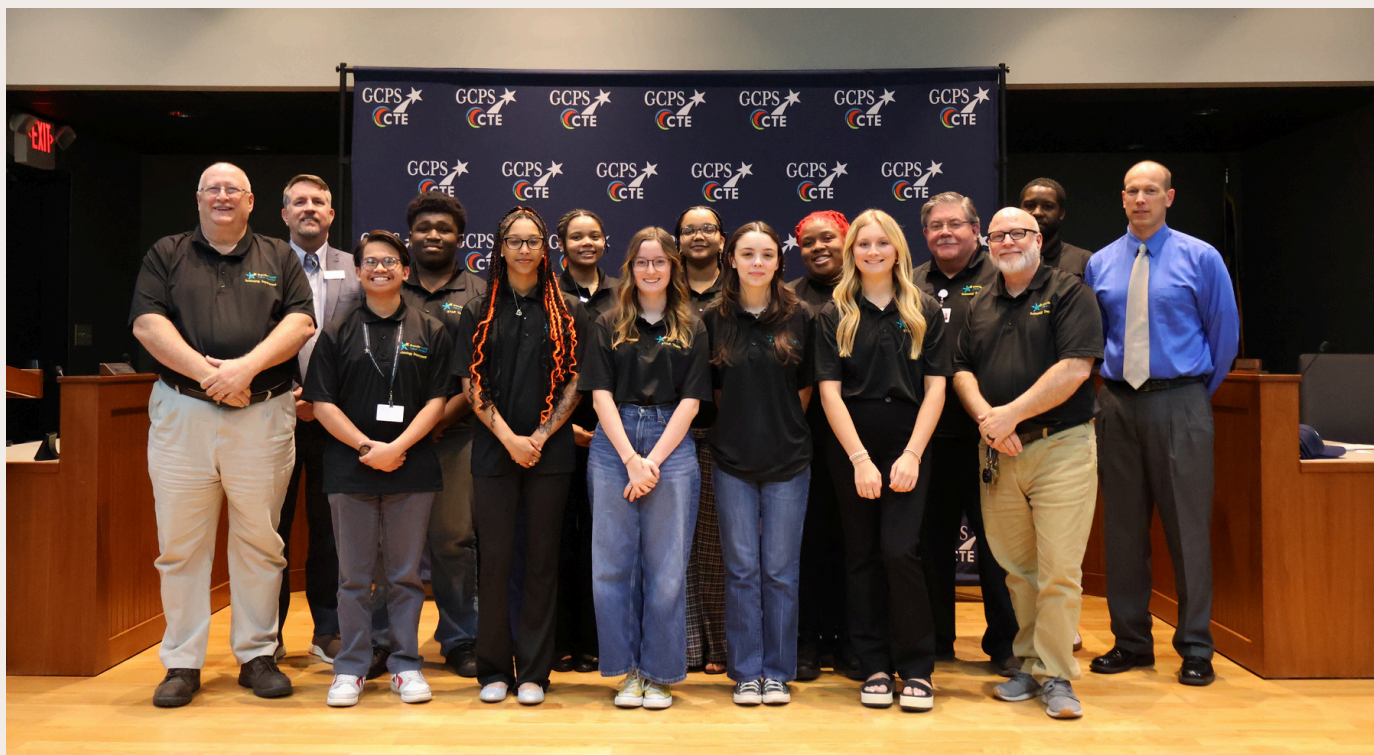
Finally, a big congratulations to all of our SkillsUSA winners this month! Many Tech Team and Digital Ambassador students competed and placed first in their categories. Winners will go on to nationals this summer. Congrats again! Watch the recording of the meeting [here](#).

Our next meeting will be **May 20, 2025 at 3pm.**



GRANVILLE STAR TEAM SIGNING DAY

On April 17th, Granville County Public Schools celebrated a major achievement with the STAR Tech Team's official Signing Day. Much like athletes commit to a college, 10 students formally signed as IT pre-apprentices while one student signed as a registered apprentice with the school district's Technology Department. The pre-apprentices will work in one of four specialized pathways: Desktop Support Analyst, Website and Social Media Analyst, Digital Media Production Analyst, and AI Training Resources Developer. Pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships like these serve as a launch pad for high-demand jobs by offering students valuable hands-on, technical work experience, mentorship, and transferable, real-world skills. This event was not only a celebration of student achievement, but also a testament to Granville County's commitment to building a strong local talent pipeline and opening doors for their youth to thrive in the workforce.



NC TECH JOBS SET TO GROW 10.5% BY 2030

North Carolina's tech industry is growing! Currently, there are over 323,000 IT and tech workers making up nearly 7% of the state's workforce, according to the 2025 NC TECH Association report. In the past five years, tech jobs in North Carolina have grown nearly 19%, putting the state among the top 10 fastest-growing tech markets in the country. Strong population growth, new businesses, and a lower cost of living are helping drive this success with women now making up almost 39% of the tech workforce here, the highest percentage in the country.

From this report, it is clear that the tech and IT sector is quickly becoming one of the biggest parts of North Carolina's economy, with more than 34,000 tech companies operating statewide. As the economy shifts toward more management and knowledge-based jobs, programs like Tech Teams and Digital Ambassadors help give North Carolina's youth the skills and experience to work in this sector and meet the state's workforce needs.

[Read the report and explore more about NC TECH here!](#)



KENAN FELLOWS PROGRAM FOR TEACHER LEADERSHIP

Recognizing the vital role educators play in shaping the future, the Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership at NC State University is committed to providing high-quality professional development for North Carolina's K-12 teachers. The program offers a wide range of opportunities, particularly in STEM, to empower teachers with research-based instructional practices and leadership skills. Kenan Fellows alumni are a key part of the programs and serve on the editorial board of the program's peer-reviewed Journal of Interdisciplinary Teacher Leadership as well as contribute to the professional learning experiences. The Kenan Fellows also maintain a database of inquiry based lesson plans and curriculum anyone can view.

Explore their [website](#) to learn more about available opportunities!

STUDENT PODCAST CHALLENGE

The National Public Radio (NPR) has opened up submissions for its annual Student Podcast Challenge. Students anywhere in the United States from grades 4-12 are invited to produce and submit a podcast for a chance to have their work featured on NPR. Teacher involvement is required to compete and the deadline for submission is May 2, 2025.



To learn more about the challenge and listen to past winners, please visit the [NPR Student Podcast Challenge website](#).