

TECH TEAM & DIGITAL AMBASSADORS NEWSLETTER

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2025



MONTHLY MEETING – MARCH 18, 2025

This month, we had the opportunity to hear from Mr. Ernie Conner with Granville County Schools about their STAR (Student Technology Assistance and Response) Tech Team and the innovative changes they've implemented this year.

Originally launched three years ago, the STAR program allowed high school juniors and seniors to apply for specialized teams in Device Repair and Support, Digital Resources and Instructional Support, Marketing and Promotional Support, and Cybersecurity and Network Support. Each team was mentored by an ITF or other staff member to support and guide each team.

This school year, the program took a new approach, shifting from team-based roles to part-time job positions. Students now work five hours a week in roles one of four roles: Device Support Analyst, Website and Social Media Analyst, Digital Media Production Analyst, and AI Training Resources Developer. Additionally, the program hired a former STAR student as a part-time Student Media Production Manager to oversee student content development. This adjustment was especially important after the district lost its ITF.





The team has been so successful that one of the team's 2024 graduates is now working full-time as a Technical Support Specialist for the district. His contributions have been so significant that one of the elementary schools he serves named him their Operations Staff Member of the Year. It's exciting to see how programs like this are preparing students for real-world careers while directly benefiting their schools.

Watch the recording of the meeting [here](#).

Our next meeting will be **April 15, 2025 at 3pm.**

GRANVILLE STAR TEAM FIDELITY INVESTMENT VISIT

Granville County Tech Pre-Apprentices had an exciting and insightful visit to Fidelity Investments, where they got a behind-the-scenes look at how the tech team supports daily operations. Students were amazed by the company's culture, organization, and employee-friendly environment—some even left inspired to pursue careers in tech support!

Here's what a few students had to say after the visit:

"Everyone looked so relaxed at their jobs. I want to work in a place like that."

"I loved the working environment! There were hundreds of people, and no one looked stressed. I never knew work could be so fun."

"I never knew companies like this had ping pong tables and gyms in their buildings. I hope I can find a job with perks like that!"

"I would like to be a Tech Support Specialist at Fidelity because it's so organized—I like structure, and they were definitely organized."

"The Tech Team at Fidelity was so nice and willing to spend time with us. I'm thankful they allowed us to visit."

A huge thank you to Fidelity Investments for their continued support of NCBCE's STAR program and for providing such an impactful experience for our students. These real-world career insights are invaluable in helping students explore and plan for their futures!



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](#).