

TECH TEAM & DIGITAL AMBASSADORS NEWSLETTER

JAN 2026



WELCOME TO 2026!

We're excited to kick off a new year of NC Tech Works and continue supporting the incredible work happening across Tech Teams and Digital Ambassador programs statewide. Thank you for everything you did in 2025 to support students, schools, and communities.



A FEW IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS AS WE START THE YEAR :

- **February Monthly Meeting:** Our February monthly meeting is still being scheduled. Please keep an eye out for an email from Sam soon with the date, time, and agenda details.
- **Outstanding 2025 Invoices & Reimbursements:** All invoices and reimbursement requests from 2025 should have already been submitted. Submission and processing of all outstanding 2025 expenses will be required before any additional funding for Spring 2026 can be distributed.
- **Spring 2026 Funding Outlook:** As shared previously, NC Tech Works funding is unfortunately dwindling. While we are actively applying for additional grants, districts may need to begin planning for increased local financial support for Tech Teams. Team coordinators may also want to explore alternative sustainability options, such as pursuing pre-apprenticeship pathways through NCBCE or applying for local and regional grant opportunities.

We remain committed to supporting teams however possible and will continue to share updates, resources, and opportunities as they become available. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or ideas as we move into 2026 together.

TECH TEAM IN AASA

Featured Article: Student Tech Teams Expand District IT Capacity



We're excited to highlight a January 2026 article from AASA, The School Superintendents Association, written by our colleague, Dr. John Ross. His article showcases how student tech teams are helping districts meet growing technology support needs. The piece discusses how schools across North Carolina have built and scaled student-led technology teams to support IT departments by expanding capacity at a time when traditional funding for tech support hasn't kept pace with device adoption. What began as eight teams has grown to over 30 statewide, coordinated through the North Carolina Student Connect initiative at NCBCE, with coaching and curriculum support from Advanced Learning Partnerships. This article features quotes from several of our teams and explains how the students not only provide needed IT support but also get to have a real-world learning experience that meaningfully contributes to their community.

Read the full article [here](#).

ALAMANCE DIGITAL AMBASSADORS

The Alamance Digital Ambassadors team has expanded its programming with a new Saturday morning class, along with continued one-on-one support for community members. This month, the ambassadors also received mental health training and took part in creative activities like building vision maps to imagine how they want their community to grow and thrive. Check out their photos from class below!



FEATURED RESOURCE – LENOVO STUDENT CHROMEBOOK TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

The Lenovo Student Chromebook Technician Program gives students credentials, IT training while helping schools reduce repair costs and improve device support. Students train to repair and maintain their school's Lenovo Chromebook fleet and can become Lenovo Authorized Student Technicians by completing 10 hands-on labs covering everything from basic components and troubleshooting to screen, storage, and motherboard repairs. Participants and supervising adults also receive access to the Lenovo Learning Portal, which includes eLearning modules created by Lenovo and Google, teacher guides, student handbooks, slide decks, and step-by-step repair resources.

Any school or district in North America that uses Lenovo Chromebooks, and has a Lenovo Authorized Technician to supervise (if your district has Lenovo products, you almost certainly have one), can join the hundreds of student tech teams already improving IT services while building real-world skills. This is an excellent, **FREE resource perfect for NC Tech Works students.**

Benefits For Districts

- ✓ **Decrease IT workload**, freeing IT staff for more complex tasks
- ✓ **Expand IT reach** within and across campuses
- ✓ **Lower costs** by minimizing repair expenses and technician time
- ✓ **Increase ROI** for technology spend
- ✓ **Build a pipeline for employment** in the district or other community organizations

Benefits For Students

- ✓ **Strengthen Tech Skills** recognized as entry points to technology careers
- ✓ **Develop employability skills** such as troubleshooting, collaboration, teamwork and communication
- ✓ **Gain real-world, hands-on experience** in a safe, supervised environment

For more information, [please visit **Lenovo's K-12 education page**, or watch the recording from November's meeting where attendees received a detailed presentation about the course from our friends at Lenovo.](#)

TECH TEAM AND DIGITAL AMBASSADOR VISITS THIS SPRING

This spring, we're happy to visit Tech Teams and Digital Ambassadors to capture students working together during a regular session or activity for use in upcoming newsletters and program materials.

Participation is flexible and based on what students are comfortable with. If you're open to being featured, feel free to reach out with a few dates that work for your team this spring. We'll handle the rest, and you'll receive access to the photos afterward.

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