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Young Black Male Discovery Students Strut Their Tech Stuff

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Weeks of learning and new discoveries are coming to an exciting conclusion starting today, May 12, with Young Black Male Discovery Program (YBMD) participants from Leon County middle schools and Ghazvini Learning Center showing off their new tech knowledge at the first of three Tallahassee Community College Tech Field Trips.

Today's field trip gave the students hands-on experience at special tech labs that allowed them to practice what they learned this semester in specialized technology education programs developed by the Go Beyond Foundation, the Tallahassee Technology (TalTech) Alliance and Tallahassee Community College (TCC). The YBMD Computer Skills curriculum taught students about computer hardware, software, networking and the Internet.

The TCC Tech Field Trips are the culmination of a rewarding semester for the YBMD students, putting all of their tech training to the test and awarding each student a certificate of completion to recognize their hard work and achievement.

"This was a major accomplishment," said Go Beyond Foundation President Allan Stamm. "These kids enthusiastically participated in this program and were anxiously awaiting the opportunity to show off what they had learned."

The remarkable success of the YBMD Computer Skills curriculum will allow the Go Beyond Foundation to continue this critical program into the 2008-2009 school year. The Go Beyond Foundation plans to launch a more detailed and comprehensive technology education program over the next few years for Leon County's at-risk students. The expanded program will include 16 weekly classes and two major field trips, and it will incorporate professionally-trained instructors to supplement the current volunteer-based instruction network staffed by Tallahassee businesses.

"The success of this program shows that the business, technology and education communities, even with their varied interests and purposes, can come together to identify special needs for at-risk students and create custom opportunities to allow those students to succeed," said Stamm.

The Go Beyond Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation created to improve access to advanced technology and technical education for groups that are identified as being in the digital divide – or technology-challenged – and can benefit from enhanced technology learning opportunities.

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