

THE PROGRAMS

Digital Harmony



Digital Harmony began in the spring of 2007 when Tallahassee City Commissioner Andrew Gillum brought together a diverse team of individuals and organizations in order to provide new desktop computers to sixth graders at R. Frank Nims Middle School to be used in their homes.

The goal of the project was to elevate Nims from an F to an A school by providing access to technology in the students' homes. This was accomplished by strong community partners who were able to provide free high-speed internet access, Pearson Success Maker software, and new Dell computers to each incoming sixth grader at Nims Middle School. The students and their parents signed an agreement upon receipt of the computers that the students would complete a certain number of curriculum hours on dedicated software each week from the home computer.

Young Black Male

TalTech Members Help Bridge Digital Divide

The TalTech Alliance has a strong history of community involvement and connecting technology to our region in creative ways. The organization was pivotal in the implementation of the Digital Harmony and Young Black Male Discovery programs, which have impacted young lives in a significant manner.

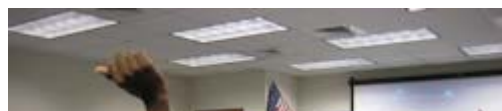


And to ensure that such efforts continued, TalTech member Allan Stamm developed the Go Beyond Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation created to improve access to advanced technology and technical education for groups that are identified as being in the "digital divide" or technology-challenged and that can benefit from enhanced technology learning opportunities.

In fact, Stamm said it was because of TalTech's involvement that the Digital Harmony project even got off the ground. "Projects like this only happen because of organizations like TalTech that have the leadership and resources to make it happen," he said. "TalTech has such a strong connection to the technology community, and that voice needs to be connected to those resources. We can bring that group together in a unique way to do amazing things."



(For a reminder about the projects, see the sidebar stories at left.)



At the onset of the

Discovery

During the course of the Digital Harmony project, GO BEYOND LLC and TalTech Alliance were asked to help integrate technology education and enhancement opportunities into the YBMD curriculum, a program being implemented district wide in all of the middle schools.

YBMD addresses the highest-risk group for educational failure, young black males, who have an approximate high school graduation rate of 50 percent. Black males who had to repeat at least one year of middle school and that had other challenges (those statistically at the highest risk of ultimately dropping out of high school) were put into dedicated classes in order to focus on opportunity, enhance their educational and marketable skills, and concentrate on character-building.

Upcoming TalTech Events

Click [HERE](#) for the current TalTech event schedule.

initiative, Stamm said key TalTech members were brought together to create awareness of the digital divide problem. "It was Larry Thompson's (special projects coordinator for Leon County Schools) vision to get technology into the classrooms for kids with promise who had academic problems," Stamm said. "It quickly became apparent that it worked. At Swift Creek Middle School, of the 19 kids in the program, seven made the A/B honor roll. TalTech provided the resources that helped make that happen."

Bridging the digital divide is important because it gives these students a snapshot of technology-possible career paths, according to Stamm. He also said it serves as a model for others to follow. "In the long-term, if other industries see what these kids can accomplish given the opportunity, maybe they will want to get involved as well."

The foundation was created because of the obvious need to be free of legislative budgets and build a strong regional partnership willing to invest in the process. "My son, Jason, and I brought the team together and became the management and sustainability of the process, and we needed to start a foundation to make that happen," Stamm said. "We needed to start raising money and needed an organization to make it sustainable."



The benefit is a win-win for everyone, but especially our workforce efforts, Stamm said. "If we didn't have those partners, like TalTech, we are not going to have the core needed to make it in the long-term."

To get learn more about the Go Beyond Foundation, click [here](#).

Go Beyond Foundation Partners

- **The FSU College of Information.** COI manages the call center and will continue to handle the technical support aspects of the program. COI will also participate as a partner in the green computer recycling program.
- **ITFlorida.** ITFlorida provides access to statewide and national technology resources and sits on the Florida Digital Divide Council.
- **Tallahassee Community College.** TCC is the lead developer for curriculums.
- **TalTech Alliance.** TalTech provides access to various technical and community resources in Tallahassee and the Capital area.