ALL STAR CODE

We must increase our youth persisting in computer science and tech. All Star Code is dedicated to closing the opportunity gap between young men of color and the tech industry.

December 2015

Dear Friend,

This year, the number of students taking the Computer Science AP Exam rose 25%. But the number of underrepresented minorities who took the test rose only 0.5%. Make no mistake, this is a crisis.

Without direct investment in youth of color, our communities will miss out on the tremendous wave of opportunity that comes with tech careers. Computer Science is spreading through New York City schools, but quality CS education is going to take years. Over 60% of ASC Summer Intensive graduates had never taken a Computer Science class prior to All Star Code. Further, our holistic curriculum incorporating presentation, cultural norms, and anti-bias strategies is a crucial missing link to equip our students with all the skills they need to pioneer into tech.

Thanks to your support, 2015 has been an impactful year. We overhauled our summer and workshop curricula to make them replicable. We have refined our program model, expanded our alumni services and added new supporters, including AT&T and the Ford Foundation. We were featured on television on PBS NewsHour and Al Jazeera America, as well as in several written stories. Over 300 supporters attended our blockbuster Summer Benefit contributing over $600,000 to All Star Code in 2015.

ASC doubled the size of the Summer Intensive in 2015, with a total of 59 graduates to date. Six out of our seven college students plan to declare computer science as their major. In March, we projected our cumulative reach to be 800 students by year's end. We fell short, yet still have reached more than 500 students. We chose to divide our focus between recruiting new students and investing in the continued education of our Summer Intensive graduates, launching our Alumni Accelerator pilot program this fall. In 2015 alone, we engaged nearly 200 students through hackathons and exposure programs. Still, there remains much work to be done.

In 2016, we are targeting the Summer Intensive program to serve more than 100 young men of color. We will continue to invest in our current graduates by sponsoring hackathons, organizing continued education opportunities, and securing paid internships for our boys. Expansion beyond New York City will continue to be a priority, with workshops on the West Coast beginning in January.

With your support, we can grow even faster and better. Together, we will build the tech talent ecosystem to include more qualified young men of color ready to change the face of tech.

With Gratitude,

CHRISTINA LEWIS HALPERN

Founder & Executive Director

SUMMER
INTENSIVE GRADUATES

ASC 1
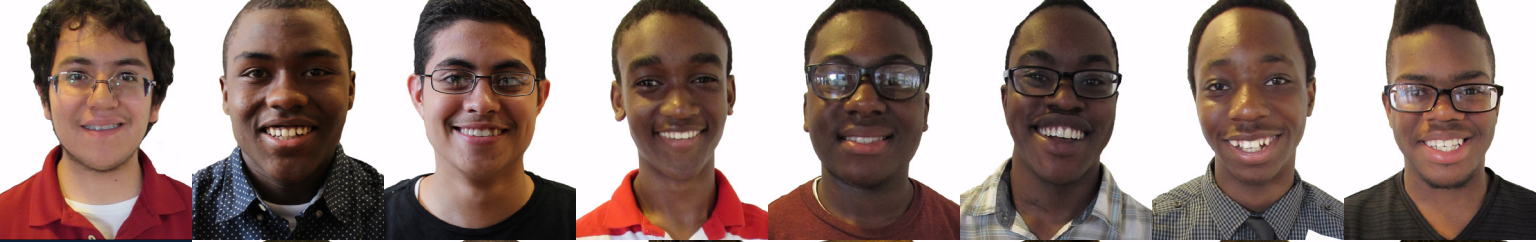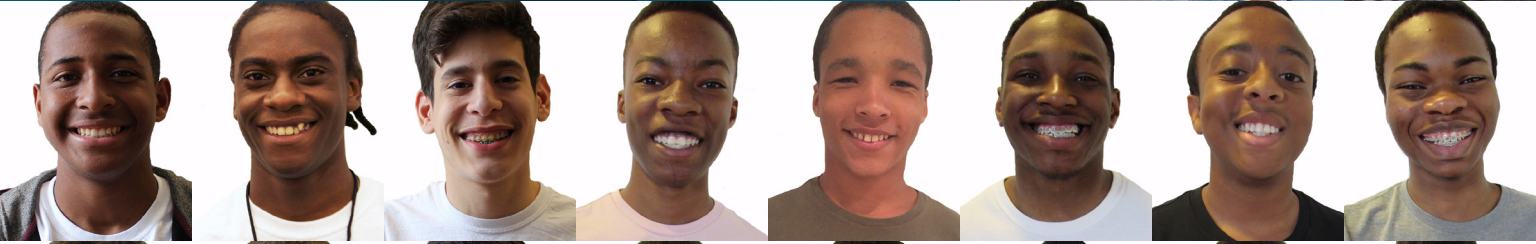
ASC 2
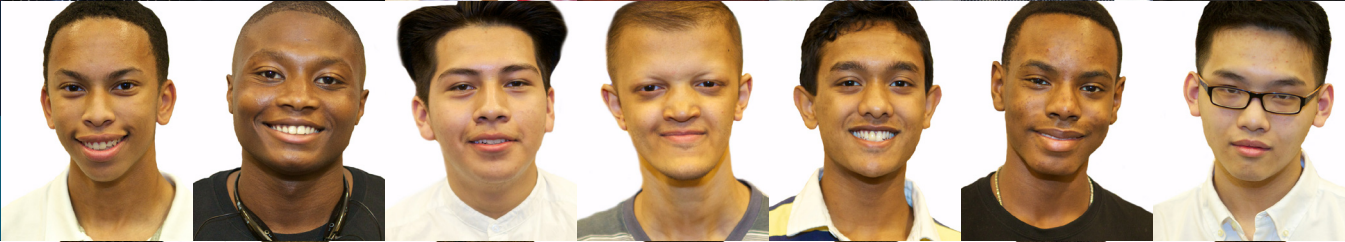
DEVON HOWELL, AGE 18

"I walked into my first day of Data Structures, a class with an enrollment of 100 students, and saw only 5 other black faces. Years ago, I would've been intimidated, questioning whether someone black like me could make it in the technology field. But thanks to All Star Code, I know now that I have the intelligence, resources and grit to get this degree, and hack the world."

ASC1 alum and 2015 Summer Intensive teaching fellow Devon Howell recently received the Bloomberg prize, a scholarship award for Columbia University, where he is now a freshman studying computer science with a concentration in linguistics.

SUMMER INTENSIVE FINAL PROJECTS

HOWL

HOWL is a mobile and web application that helps students collaborate on their studies. HOWL utilizes a phone's GPS system to link students at the same school, or in the same neighborhood, who are studying the same subject matter. The application was made using HTML/CSS, CSS Animation, Databases (MongoDB), and Meteor.js.

ASC 2 Creators:

*John Abreu, Ayinde Castro, & Efmajackson Rosario (AlleyNYC Cohort)*

PROJECT ORACLE

Since 2013, there have been at least 160 school shootings in America, an average of nearly one a week. Project Oracle is a hardware device that attaches to firearms to prevent them from being stolen or misused. The device uses an Adafruit fingerprint registration system, and was coded using C. The target demographic is every gun owner in America.

ASC 2 Creators:

Samuel Jurcic, Francis Rivera, & Henry Cedillo (Microsoft Cohort)

9%

OF THE TECH INDUSTRY WORKFORCE IS BLACK OR LATINO

ONLY

42%
BLACK
&
57%
LATINO

MALES PASSED THE AP COMPUTER SCIENCE EXAM IN 2015 IN NEW YORK STATE

ONLY

142
BLACK
&
230
LATINO

STUDENTS TOOK THE AP COMPUTER SCIENCE EXAM IN 2015 IN NEW YORK STATE.

OUR PROGRAM MODEL

RAISE AWARENESS → EDUCATE → ACCELERATE → CONNECT

RAISE AWARENESS

ASC runs workshops and hackathons to expose students to tech entrepreneurship and attract them to coding. This year, we expanded our workshops to Chicago and soon Los Angeles in partnership with JPMorgan and General Assembly. Over 20 press outlets highlighted our work, including PBS NewsHour and Al Jazeera America.

EDUCATE

All Stars complete a college level CS course during the 6-week Summer Intensive, ending with a polished final project. They improve soft skills, develop personal narratives, and learn the tenets of entrepreneurship. The 2015 Summer Intensive had a 100% completion rate. ASC is targeting 80+ Summer Intensive students in 2016.

ACCELERATE

Graduates boost their skills in a paid transition-to-work program, the Alumni Accelerator. Through volunteer opportunities, such as designing student-led hackathons, alumni develop their technical skills, build professional portfolios, and gain soft skills critical to the workplace. Training culminates with paid summer internships, including fellowships at All Star Code.

CONNECT

All Star Code engages high school students with tech via social media and meetups. We foster a sustaining community for ongoing peer mentorship, making them more likely to persist in computing. Nearly 300 New York City high school students have attended ASC-powered alumni hackathons since 2014.

Thank you! Your support helps young men of color jumpstart their careers in tech.

@AllStarCode

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