Exciting Students to Roanoke Valley STEM Careers and Opportunities

Kids’ Tech University
http://kidstechuniversity.vbi.vt.edu/

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My Journey to STEM

ASU → Virginia Tech

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
What do I do now?
Kids’ Tech University

**Primary goal:** Creating the future workforce in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) by sparking kids’ interest in these fields.

**Target Group:** Kids ages 9-12 and their parents

**Registration Fee:** $100
History of KTU

• Created in 2008, first program 2009

• Collaboration between Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech and Virginia 4-H

• Now includes 4 programs at 3 universities, 4 sites
4 Current KTU programs

• Virginia Tech
  • 450 kids
  • Spring semester- 4 event dates, Jan., Feb., March and April

• Bowling Green State University
  • 150 kids
  • Spring semester- 4 event dates, Jan., Feb., March and April

• Virginia State University
  • 125 kids
  • Fall semester- 2 event dates, Oct. and Nov.

• Virginia Tech Southwest Center in Abingdon, VA
  • 100 kids
  • Fall/Spring semester- 2 event dates, Nov. and April
Structure of program

• Morning- Interactive Session hosted by a world renown scientist
  • Title in the form of a question
  • Kids divided into rows by last name (about 10); volunteer (VT undergrad/grad student) checks kids into row from parents
  • Audio/visual sent out to another hall for parents

• Lunch

• Afternoon- exhibits by students, professors, clubs and local companies
  • Parents required to attend with children
“I am the future of science”
What makes KTU effective?
Advice for students

• Exposure is key.

• Help them create a 5 year plan → Know their path!

• Visit college campuses.

• Examine college majors regularly for colleges of interest.

• Communicate with college administrators and professionals.

• Give them room to explore.