

Engaging Children in the Power of STEM Education and the Career Pipeline

Junior Achievement of Memphis and the Mid-South is expanding the Wang Experiential Learning Center to address disparities in underserved middle and high school students' career readiness in high-tech and high-wage STEM industries. The center's expansion increases its capacity to offer a state-of-the-art simulation space for more students.

BUDGET

\$425K

\$100K
TVA Connected
Communities

\$325K
Proposed
Match

Background



Increased Capacity Needed

The Wang Experiential Learning Center opened in January 2023 to enhance the career readiness of underserved students across the Mid-South, but demand for services quickly outpaced the technological capacity of the center. By expanding the center's digital assets and adding advanced technological learning capabilities, this pilot project engages thousands of children in high-demand, high-tech career exposure.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Expanding Reach

The expansion of the technological capacity of the center allows Junior Achievement of Memphis and the Mid-South to help thousands of additional students become skilled and competitive members of the workforce.

FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Supports

JA BizTown and
Finance Park

In-Depth

educator training
provided

Booked

from October 2023
through May 2024

Scope



Technology Expands

to provide advanced learning opportunities for more students.



Students Learn

the power of technology skills to create high-growth and high-wage careers.



Community Grows

through new workforce skills in young community members.

SCOPE

14K

digital-first square feet

18

micro training rooms

1

enhanced training center

THE GOAL

Workforce Development

This project provides underserved students with problem-based, hands-on learning experiences in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, which helps them develop skills and prepares them for future careers.

Performance

Key Performance Indicators

- Number of students who:
 - visit the center
 - complete the program
- Students' ability to:
 - plan educational and career goals
 - understand high school course requirements
 - understand postsecondary education options
 - identify higher-paying career clusters matching their interests/skills
 - develop soft skills needed for workforce

The Value

Digital Literacy

- Increased access to technological learnings
- Reduced digital literacy divide
- Improved hands-on learning experiences

Workforce Confidence

- Enriched future workforce understanding and access
- Established career goals
- Enhanced skill development

Key Partners

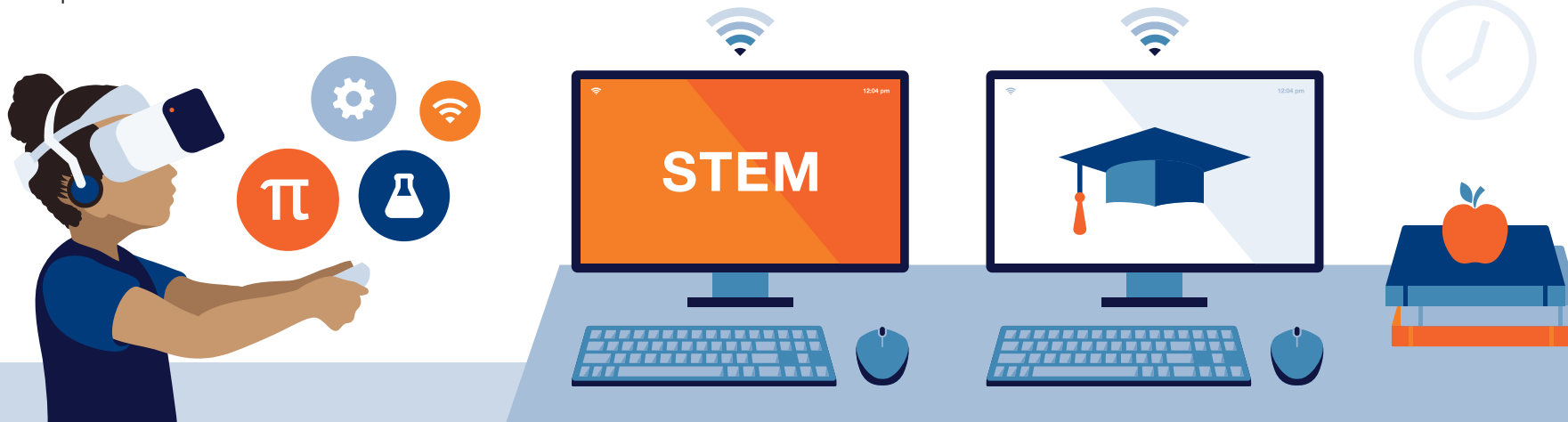
PROJECT LEAD

Junior Achievement of Memphis and the Mid-South

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

Memphis Shelby County Schools

Tennessee Valley Authority



Timeline

Phase 1

Purchase of laptops and related charging equipment for the center

Phase 2

Purchase of virtual reality (VR) headsets and related charging equipment

Phase 3

Purchase of iPads and related equipment; installation of the cloud platform system to enable VR learning and the use of 150 iPads



Learn more about pilot projects