



# JABC

# TechWorks

An exploration of technology careers for youth

## PROGRAM REPORT

January 16, 2018 at TELUS World of Science



# At a Glance

402

Grade 9 & 10  
Students



25

Partnering  
Companies



7

Guest  
Speakers



27

Breakout  
Facilitators



21

Volunteers



8

Breakout  
Sessions



Watch the JABC TechWorks  
Highlight Reel



View additional photos  
from the event

# Outcomes

We surveyed the Grade 9 and 10 participants before and after the program to gauge changes in their attitude and awareness of career paths related to technology. The results below demonstrate that **JABC TechWorks** provided valuable, eye-opening lessons for students who will soon need to make decisions about their high school courses, post-secondary studies and future careers.

## Interest in a technology related career



91%

91% of participants said they are likely to consider working in the technology sector someday.

## Awareness of training required



47% increase

47% more students said they now possessed an understanding of the educational pathway and training required to attain a job in technology.

## Awareness of employment opportunities



80% increase

80% more students cited they are now aware of employment opportunities in the technology sector.

## Awareness of earning potential



54% increase

54% more students said they are now familiar with the earning potential offered by careers in technology.



*I am inspired and more open to a totally new field.*

– Helena L., Grade 10 student

*I learned so many things about technology and what possible work I can get if I continue in the tech industry.*

– Alyanna R., Grade 11 student



# Program Overview



Technology is transforming the business landscape at a rapid pace - it impacts every industry and job field. The demand for innovative, highly skilled employees who can create and use new technologies is growing.

Yet both tech and traditional industry leaders report **BC high school students are not prepared for these future careers**. Currently, there are not enough qualified candidates in this province to meet employer demand.

Access to talent remains the biggest issue for most tech companies [...] BC post-secondary institutions graduate fewer engineering and technology-related degrees, on a per capita basis, compared with other Canadian provinces.

– 2016 BC  
Technology Report  
Card

To help make BC's youth more aware of technology careers and the knowledge and skills required to secure these jobs, JA British Columbia worked with industry and community partners to launch a special program for BC high school students in 2017.



On January 16, 2018, the 2nd annual **JABC TechWorks** was held at TELUS World of Science.

400 Grade 9 and 10 students, who had previously taken a *JA Economics for Success* program at their school, attended this invitation only full-day experience.

Agenda included:

- a Morning Plenary in the Omnimax Theatre with guest speakers who talked about the exciting world of tech
- an afternoon of breakout sessions hosted by representatives from BC's growing tech industry



“The event will make a difference in the lives of many of them – influencing the way they think and choices they make in the future.

– Susan Jung, Educator

I now have a better understanding of how to support students in their career choices and have a greater awareness of the impact technology has on all jobs.

– Sally Wong, Educator

# Morning Plenary

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The Morning Plenary in the Omnimax Theatre was a high-energy introduction to the world of technology. It included a live DJ, engaging speakers from technology-based firms, a virtual reality technology demonstration and an interactive smartphone polling activity that built on the lessons of the *JA Economics for Success* program.



The speakers talked about how they reached their current careers in technology, brought awareness to the needs BC companies have for talent, and inspired the students to consider the career possibilities in the flourishing technology sector.

## *The most memorable part for me was...*



*Learning about how you can incorporate technology into any career path you are interested in.*

**- Emily P., Grade 10 student**

*The knowledge about the potential earning offers and different jobs in the tech field ....Fantastic!*

**- Manan R., Grade 10 student**

*Listening to everyone's paths and journeys into their careers in technology.*

**- Taylor S., Grade 10 student**

*Learning that coding is not a subject that I should be avoiding, as...technology opens many doors to future careers and the thought of being part of those careers inspires me to learn.*

**- Kaylee L., Grade 10 student**



# Plenary Speakers



**MC: Vik Kambli**  
Head of Western Canada,  
Facebook & Instagram



**Eileen Kenkel**  
Director, Program Management Office,  
Customer Experience, TELUS



**Rocky Ozaki**  
VP of Community & Head of  
Corporate Innovation, BC Tech Assoc.

*“Every profession  
is going to be innovated  
by, possibly disrupted -  
and in many cases - on  
the road to becoming  
redundant because of  
technology.”*

-Rocky Ozaki



**Devon Thompson**  
VP of Commercial Financial Services,  
RBC



**Scott Miller**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Vision Critical



**Rebecca Liggins**  
Product Designer,  
Clio



Watch their full  
speeches



**Laura Grondahl**  
Software Developer,  
LlamaZOO

# Breakout Sessions

The interactive afternoon breakout sessions, hosted by representatives of BC's growing tech industry, introduced students to a wide variety of topics related to the new world technology has created.

## Online Safety and Security



Presented by TELUS

## Fun with IoT & SAP



Presented by SAP



## Powering BC



Presented by BC Hydro

## Women in Technology



Presented by Deloitte with supporting sponsor Mobify



*I have opened my eyes to working somewhere in the technology field because of the great advantages it has. This program was very helpful [...] I feel that this gave me a bit of a head start and I am grateful for it.*

**- Ahmad A., Grade 10 student**



# Breakout Sessions

## *It's Not Rocket Science (Actually, it is!)*



Presented by MDA

## *The Science Behind a Gallery*



Presented by  
TELUS World of Science



## *Accelerate into the Future with Technology*



Presented by Accenture

## *Visual Effects & Animation*



Presented by  
Sony Pictures Imageworks

“ I feel I can change the world with my newfound inspiration.  
- Bara'ah H., Grade 10 student

I enjoyed learning about the many new jobs for the future.  
- Chloe P., Grade 10 student ”

thank you

for enabling this life-altering opportunity for BC's youth!  
Your support has made a significant impact on these students' future aspirations and opened their eyes to a new world of possibilities.

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[jabc.ca](http://jabc.ca)

Suite 360 - 475 West Georgia St.  
Vancouver, BC V6B 4M9  
(604) 688.3887

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