

Edison CTE High School Empowers Students with IT Certifications

Thomas A. Edison CTE is a high school that offers vocational and college preparatory programs for the urban student population in New York. Made up of a highly diverse group of students, Edison works to empower adolescents to become leaders while providing them with the tools they need to be successful in the modern world. To ensure students are prepared, Edison CTE partners with CompTIA to ready students for the technical job market.



CHALLENGES

Edison CTE is challenged with ensuring students possess the skills they need to navigate a technical workforce, while simultaneously preparing students for higher education and future leadership roles. Hailing from highly diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, many students become encumbered with student loans as they pursue collegiate studies. Edison CTE makes it their mission to provide a high level of hands-on training that is valued in the technical workspace. The goal is to help relieve the burden of loans by enabling employment to fund higher education. To assist students in post-high school readiness, Edison CTE sought a partnership that would allow them to provide innovative instruction on the latest industry trends.



SOLUTION

By partnering with CompTIA, Edison CTE can offer practical job skills, advanced training materials and access to globally recognized certifications. The mastery of IT concepts empowers the youth of New York to fund their college education, while working in a competitive field and gaining job experience that can be applied to future career paths. Developing real-world skills also enables young New Yorkers to act as independent leaders.



RESULTS

- Certifications qualify students for quality employment immediately after high school graduation.
- Students are able to gain valuable job skills for a future IT career.
- Graduates are able to become gainfully employed and fund higher education as a result of their CompTIA certifications.

BY THE NUMBERS



Over 400 students from Edison have earned industry-leading CompTIA certifications



So spent by students on technical certifications



94% of Edison students attend college

LESSONS LEARNED

- ▶ Hands-on skills are necessary to prepare students to enter a competitive and technical workforce.
- ▶ Certifications offer students job prospects as an alternative to funding higher education with student loans.
- ▶ Practical knowledge and industry-leading certifications help students develop independence and leadership skills.

Edison CTE Develops Technical Leaders of Tomorrow with CompTIA Certifications

Alex Bell has been teaching at Edison CTE since 1986. In those days, his classroom was outfitted to teach students how to repair typewriters. Now, his room is equipped with instructional material and educational resources that teach the latest trends in technology. Students who enter Mr. Bell's class learn hands-on skills essential for a career in IT.

Mr. Bell knows that innovation is an essential element in preparing the student population for the hurdles they will face in the technical job market. To ensure that his students are receiving the best education, Mr. Bell sought a partnership with CompTIA. He commented, "I realized that CompTIA, being the international

magnet for all things technology, can really take my course places. So, I decided I'm going to be a sponge for CompTIA and get all I possibly can from this organization." Mr. Bell went on to earn several CompTIA certifications. Recognizing the value of the credentials, he wanted to offer the same opportunity to his students.

Mr. Bell initiated the process of solidifying Edison's status as a CompTIA Authorized Academy. He noted this was a significant goal because it "made everything I did globally and internationally official." Mr. Bell feels that a certification recognized in the global workplace is one of the most powerful advantages of the program.

"I realized that CompTIA, being the international magnet for all things technology, can really take my course places. So, I decided I'm going to be a sponge for CompTIA and get all I possibly can from this organization."

— Alex Bell, Teacher, Edison CTE

The partnership with CompTIA has allowed Edison to offer a higher level of instructional material, practical application of curriculum, online tools and real simulations. Of CompTIA, Mr. Bell remarked, "I can't remember working with any other company that afforded me, my students, my classroom, or my school such prestige."

STUDENT INSIGHTS



Mohammed Kahn is a student leader full of personality. As a high school sophomore, he possessed an interest in Cisco Networking. But, a lucky break in his schedule sent him down a different path and he joined the ranks of those working toward CompTIA certifications. "At first I didn't like computers at all. Through Mr. Bell's class, I learned to love computers."

Mohammed enjoyed the material and believes that the concepts he learned will be extremely useful as he enters the business world. He particularly enjoyed that the class focused on "cooperation and student engagement. We weren't just learning from curriculum, but learning from each other, as well. We also learned real-world skills."

Mohammed earned his CompTIA IT Fundamentals+ certification. He hopes to use his certification and technical background to pursue a career in business and possibly enter politics.



Emama Akhter, Edison graduate: "My friends were paying for computer-science related classes and would often come to me for help on material I received for free in high school. Having my CompTIA certification also gave my employer more confidence in me to work on my own, starting with minimal training and eventually allowed me to lead certain team projects, regardless of my young age."



Amanda Deebrab, Edison graduate: "My CompTIA certification has allowed me to begin my career immediately after high school. It's important to have certifications because it speaks to your competence level so you don't have to."