



Title: ThinkSMART - An Extended Learning Opportunity

Company/Organization: Red River Technology LLC

Type of Organization: For profit

Number of Employees: 100+

Category: Community

Challenge or Opportunity: While participating in local high school advisory boards we learned that students were not given hands on opportunities in business, finance, and technology. As such we developed a flexible curriculum that allows students to gain real world experience that would help them with both employment and future education paths.

Approach or Solution: Red River built an extending learning opportunity (ELO) program called ThinkSMART. ThinkSMART gives high school students the chance to gain Skills, Mentorship, Access, Readiness and Technology in a professional working environment through hands-on IT troubleshooting, interviewing, and other professional skills. This collaborative program focuses on more than just break/fix IT skills and lays the foundation for students to be successful in a professional work environment.

Impact: Our hands-on hybrid summer IT learning program, Think SMART, has given over 75 students across the country real world business and technology experience. We have had students from New Hampshire to California in the program learning how to take apart PC's, build operating systems, monitor IT systems, develop business acumen and financial skills, and so much more. A great learning experience for our students, it has also been a wonderful mentoring opportunity for employees and partners.