SheTech Explorer Day draws nearly 400 students from around the state

Late this spring the Women Tech Council, in partnership with UVU, hosted the SheTech Explorer Day, a free daylong conference for high school girls 10th through 12th grade.

The event drew nearly 400 female students from over 65 high schools around the state. SheTech organizers said the goal was to provide hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) while exposing high school girls to the opportunities and options available to them in STEM fields. The girls were able to talk to women who are currently employed in STEM fields, who also served as role models to many students.

“Our ultimate goal is to expose girls to technology in a fun atmosphere as well as introduce them to STEM role models to learn more about opportunities in those fields,” said Angela Trego, a lecturer in UVU’s College of Technology & Computing.

The students explored areas such as robotics, computer programming, digital media, health and microbiology, competed in challenges and participated in a Google presentation.

Throughout the day different technological companies hosted tables, offering fun interactive products for participants to explore, like 3Doodler, the world’s first 3-D printing pen.

SheTech organizers say the event was a success and plan to draw around a thousand students next spring.
SkillsUSA competitors set new UVU medals record

UVU’s student competitors at the SkillsUSA National Championship brought home a first place ranking after winning 17 medals, which set a new school record this summer.

The ranking is reflective of a pattern of excellence over the past 14 years, where UVU has always ranked among the top three schools in the nation.

“This speaks volumes about the quality of students, faculty and programs we have at UVU,” said Darin Taylor, director of UVU’s SkillsUSA.

“I was impressed with how well our students represented Utah and the University. They were very committed and serious about their competitions and did their absolute best to win their respective competitions.”

As an added bonus, Mike Rowe from the television series “Dirty Jobs” attended the championships and filmed a segment. He chose UVU’s Paul Smith from culinary arts to be a part of his new TV series “Somebody’s Gotta Do It.”

Rowe spent nearly an hour of filming in a cake decorating competition against Smith. Smith, who won the gold in commercial baking, won the contest.

UVU had an additional 15 students place in the top 10 in robotics and automation technology, video production, culinary arts, job interview, medical math, medical terminology, first aid/CPR, diesel equipment technology, health knowledge bowl and technical computer applications.

CTE welcomes CCP Sr. Director

This summer CTE welcomed Darrel Hammon, UVU’s new Senior Director of Community College Programs, to campus.

He has been an educational entrepreneur and leader for 30 years, having served in a variety of leadership positions, including president of two community colleges. He has taught 9th graders, undergraduate, and graduate students. His focus has been on community colleges, leadership, program development, and strategic planning.

Eighty-five percent of the university’s two-year and certificate programs fall within the CTE programs. With that said, CTE looks forward to Hammon’s advocacy in the university’s role as a community college and the additional focus on connecting UVU CTE programs to workforce development.

“Utah Valley University has an incredibly unique mission, one that still includes a community college role and mission,” Hammon said. “Community College Programs plays an integral role in developing and enhancing that community college vision and mission while simultaneously collaborating with the larger University to enhance learners’ ability to discover their educational pathways in order to be successful in today’s marketplace.”

Please contact us with any news or events you would like to see in the CTE newsletter. Email: jacelle.erickson@uvu.edu

CTE Information

The CTE department supports and provides opportunities for students to acquire and use high-quality technical and career skills through focused, engaged learning to prepare them for meaningful employment in a competitive global workforce.