

WHAT WE DO

SparkNC gives North Carolina's students a competitive edge on their way to high-wage, tech-infused careers, providing a dynamic, homegrown talent pipeline for our state and our communities. We offer engaging, modular learning experiences that help students build skills, showcase their work in digital portfolios, and connect with industry experts through events and internships.

SparkNC empowers students to discover careers in high-tech fields:



Learner-Centered

Students select learning experiences in high-tech fields and complete them **at their own pace** and can stack them towards high-school computer science credit.



Industry-Relevant

Businesses partner with SparkNC to help students grow their **professional networks** and build the **durable skills** employers value.



Competency-Based

Students demonstrate their learning in **real-world projects**, adding work products to their **digital portfolios**.



Learn More
About Us:
sparknc.org

SparkNC Interdistrict Network



Our Sparkklaps

Modern, collaborative hubs
where Spark Scholars connect,
learn and create.



"SAS is asking, 'What's our workforce going to need to be in the next few years?' As a Board Member for SparkNC, I help them consider what will prepare students for the career opportunities that will exist."



Jennifer Bell 
Director of Educational Partnerships

Learning Experiences

Learners select and stack 6 units from a 60+ (and growing!) menu.
Learning formats include:



Interdistrict

Educators and industry leaders offer in-person and virtual learning across our interdistrict network of SparkLabs. Learners across the state to engage with tech experts and build professional networks.



Experiential

In-person, hands-on events, team-based internships and more provide real-world experiences that help learners build familiarity and comfort within professional and higher-ed settings.

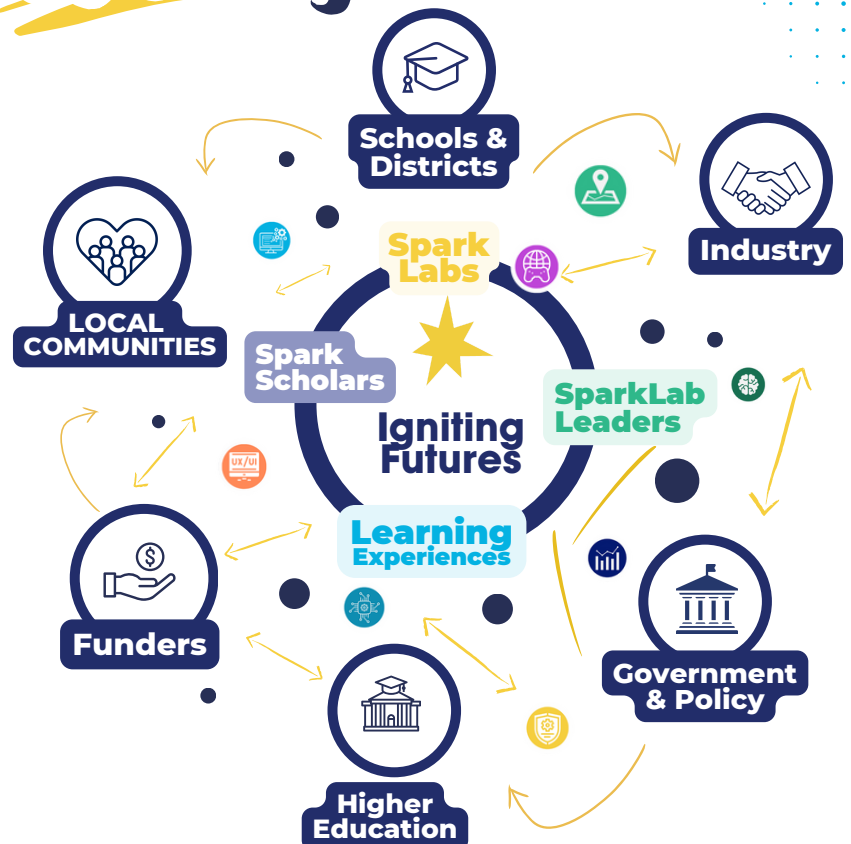


On-Demand

Learners can choose from a menu of on-demand platform experiences to learn any time. Individual and team-based options build real-world collaboration and project skills.



Our Ecosystem



72% of learners who had little or no interest in pursuing a high-tech career reported **stronger interest in going into high-tech** after their SparkNC experience.

SparkLabs & Leaders

TRANSFORMING LEARNING FOR STUDENTS



SparkLabs serve as the physical hubs of the Spark Scholar experience and are designed and built to be **modern, collaborative spaces** that support learner-centered education. Districts have built their SparkLabs in high schools, centers for innovation and other locations in their communities.

Each SparkLab is led by a SparkLab Leader who facilitates learners navigating a flexible learning environment. The labs provide spaces for collaboration, high-powered computing and ideation. Each lab has videoconferencing equipment connecting them to an **interdistrict connected classroom** where lab leaders and industry partners can teach and interact with learners across the network.



Learners have access to the SparkLab **during and outside of the school day**. Students also participate in SparkNC beyond the SparkLab at student conferences, tech industry campus visits, internships and interdistrict collaborative projects among Spark Scholars from across the state.

spark
NC

Cross-Sector Connections



Executives and investors rely on strong regional talent pools to make their companies successful. SparkNC can ensure North Carolina, a national innovation hub, is building a durable pipeline of future business leaders in technology."

Allen Mask
Managing Partner



CōLab

"Epic Games is excited to help students learn the skills required for entering careers in interactive 3D and emerging technology. Working with SparkNC enables us to provide excellent learning resources to the future workforce."

Steve Isaacs
Education Program Manager



"SparkNC allows students to tailor their own education and reach their career potential. I'm thrilled to watch these ambitious students as they evolve into young professionals in our community."

Kate Groat
Director of Corporate Philanthropy



Industry partners support our work by serving on our **Business Advisory Council**, a group that is tapped to provide valuable thought partnership and engage with our team to vet bold ideas from the perspective of business leaders with a deep commitment to K-12 public education. Tech industry partners also serve on our **Board of Directors**.

We **collaborate with an extraordinary network of partners** to design and deliver learning experiences, support our operations and strategy and host special events to help students ignite their futures in tech.

Collaborative partners include:



ENGAGING WITH INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Business leaders value the opportunity to shape their future workforce by engaging with and encouraging the next generation of talent.

business Partner

Perspectives

Members of North Carolina's high-tech business community are eager to work with SparkNC and interact directly with Spark Scholars through a variety of special events, hybrid teaching and learning opportunities, and work engagements like internships and job shadowing.



Companies like ours, we aren't just thinking about our workforce in terms of our current openings. We're asking, 'What's our workforce going to need to be in the next few years?' As a Business Advisory Council member for SparkNC, we're able to think through what will be most helpful for students as they consider their career opportunities."

Jennifer Bell
Director of Educational
Partnerships



"Through experiential learning, SparkNC is helping close the digital literacy gap while empowering North Carolina's next generation of innovative leaders! Their mission is essential to our state's economic growth and development."

Dexter Robinson
Leader,
Early-in-Career Talent



"SparkNC is a transformational model that empowers learners to pursue technology careers and show mastery of their learning in unique ways. The design of the program allows the learner to have a voice and choice in the process and gives them the agency they need to continue to learn. I have been sharing this model all over North America as an opportunity to truly think differently about our approach to education."

Adam Garry
Artificial Intelligence Consultant



SparkNC's Business Advisory Council also includes:



Phaedra Boinodiris
Global Leader for
Trustworthy AI



Jamey Falkenbury
Manager, Strategic
Initiatives



Kendall Latham
Education Strategist

