C4K student teaches peers in Tech-Girls class

Congrats to C’erra, who taught her peers how to solder a wearable robot-shaped pin with blinking lights. C’erra is a weekly participant in “Tech-Girls at C4K,” where she and other young ladies in middle school engage in hands-on group learning experiences with technology, all under the guidance of Tech-Girls founder and instructor, Kim Wilkens. C’erra actually learned to solder from her C4K mentor, Courtney Christensen, but she knew right away she wanted to share her soldering and programming knowledge with her Tech-Girls community. Kim said, “It was a delight to have C’erra teach a Tech-Girls class, to see her grow in confidence with technology and become a role model for others.” C’erra hopes to be an elementary school teacher someday, and she “was excited because it was my first time teaching a class!”

C4K earns new recognition for quality programming

C4K is among the first group of mentoring programs in the state to earn Partner Member status through the Virginia Mentoring Partnership’s (VMP) Quality-Based Membership Initiative. C4K Executive Director Kala Somerville said, “Quality-Based Membership has provided the framework and support for C4K to align our programming with the most recent best practices. I am thrilled C4K has earned this validation for offering high quality programming, and I am grateful to VMP for launching this initiative.” Rebekah Holbrook, Director of Programs at VMP, stated, “Quality program practices drive youth outcomes. Earning this status demonstrates C4K is fully committed to offering their students and mentors the best experiences possible.” As a result of this process, C4K has also earned recognition from the National Mentoring Partnership and is listed on their website at www.mentoring.org.
Congratulations to the Class of 2014

Colleges C4K students will matriculate to in Fall 2014:

- College of William and Mary
- James Madison University
- Jefferson State Community College
- Piedmont Virginia Community College
- Sweet Briar College
- University of Virginia
- University of Virginia at Wise
- Virginia Commonwealth University

C4K is so proud of Queen Ibie, who is a 2014 recipient of the Grace Tinsley Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to Charlottesville High School Seniors who have demonstrated leadership skills, community service participation, courage, humor, problem solving skills, and perseverance. Queen will attend PVCC in the fall.

Congratulations to C4K alumna Kassandra Baltazar, who was selected to receive a full scholarship to James Madison University through their Centennial Scholars Program. Kassy is pictured with her mentor, Shawna Poole. Kassy said, “Shawna was a fun-filled and fashionista girl who helped me with my creativity and introduced me to a new world. We still keep in touch and hold a great friendship.”

Alumni accomplishments

Congrats to C4K alums Jalil Aswadi and Erica Jackson, who recently earned advanced degrees. Jalil graduated with a Masters in Business from the University of Virginia and is now working at a private equity firm in Charlottesville. Erica graduated with a Masters in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is pictured with her younger sister Sierra (in cap and gown), who is also a C4K alum and just graduated from CHS. Both Erica and Jalil have expressed appreciation for their time at C4K and credit C4K as an important positive influence on their lives.
Bernard Fitzpatrick Scholarship Award caps Junior-Senior Night

C4K welcomed Diane Inman and Carolyn Fitzpatrick, two special guests from the Jack Jouett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to help facilitate our annual Junior-Senior Night. C4K’s older students had the opportunity to reflect on their school year, noting challenges and accomplishments they were proud of and discussing steps they have taken to reach their goals for the future.

The evening culminated with Carolyn’s presentation of the Bernard Joseph Fitzpatrick Award given by his family through the Jack Jouett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The award was given to the winner of C4K’s college application essay contest for graduating seniors. First place went to Nilou, who earned a laptop and printer that she will take to Virginia Commonwealth University in the Fall.

Thank You

Thank you to Battelle for supporting C4K. Special thanks to Darlene Sabo and Adrian Felts for visiting our learning labs and for encouraging our students to use their C4K-acquired skills to pursue STEM careers.

Thank you to the Bama Works Fund of Dave Matthews Band in the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation for their recent $5,000 grant award to C4K’s mentoring program.

Thank you to the Albemarle County Rotary Club for sponsoring an essay writing contest for C4K’s rising high school seniors in the Fall of 2014. Seniors will complete essays required for their college applications and the contest winner will receive a laptop for college. Rotary Club President Judy Smith is pictured with Kala Somerville, Executive Director of C4K, and William Carden, Jr., President of C4K’s Board of Directors.

C4K was thrilled to participate in the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation’s first Give4Good Day, a 24-hour online giving event for Charlottesville area nonprofits on May 6th, 2014. C4K was one of the top ten agencies with the most individual donors on the CACF’s “leaderboard” all day! We exceeded our goal and raised more than $5,300 in under 24 hours. Thanks to all who helped spread the word about the event, donated, and made the day a success!

Thank you to the Junior League of Charlottesville for selecting Tech-Girls at C4K to receive one of their community grants. JLC grants are intended to help local nonprofits meet immediate community needs.
“Well, Emily is a really nice person and I love her like a sister. To me it feels like I knew her all my life. One reason why she is the best mentor ever is because she makes you feel like you’re at your home. To me that is what a big sister is. I love her so much. This is why I do not want to graduate from C4K because I will miss Emily.”

– Brittany, C4K student

Interested in becoming a mentor?
Visit www.computers4kids.net to learn more, and fill out an application today!

Workplace Giving:
Commonwealth of VA Campaign – C4K’s ID# is 3849
Combined Federal Campaign – C4K’s ID# is 75943

Amazon Smile
Take an online shopping trip on Amazon and 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to C4K (at no cost to you)! Just go to smile.amazon.com, select Computers4Kids as the charity of your choice and start shopping. Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible for the shopper.

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