What Do Urban Teens Really Want for Their Future Careers?

A survey of urban low- to middle-income African American and Hispanic teens found that teens value many things in a career besides money.

WHAT TOP 5 THINGS DO URBAN TEENS CONSIDER VERY OR EXTREMELY IMPORTANT?

- 88% say having a job they love is important
- 79% say helping others is very important
- 77% say making a lot of money is very important
- 76% say traveling the world is very important
- 75% say helping the environment is very important

WHAT ARE THE TOP 5 ASPECTS TEENS FEEL ARE IMPORTANT TO THEIR FUTURE CAREERS?

- 88% say helping parent(s)
- 87% say working in a field in which finding a job is easy
- 85% say going to college
- 84% say making a lot of money
- 82% say owning their own home

WHAT TOP 10 CAREERS* OF INTEREST INCLUDE COMPUTER JOBS

1. Business owner
2. Software Programmer
3. Nurse or Doctor
4. Civil Engineer
5. Lawyer
6. Computer Technician
7. Military Job
8. Computer Design Engineer
9. Architect
10. Engineer

… the top careers are tech related.

Teens would be interested in learning about IT programs if...

- they could get paid for it as a job while in high school
- it would help them get into college
- they could get high school credit for it
- it were related to other areas of career interest to them
- it involved helping to solve a problem in their school
- it involved helping to solve problem in their community
- it were a part of a high school course
- it were part of a college course
- it showed them jobs in technology
- it were a category offered in their high school

… it would help them get into college

90% say owning their own home is important

MATH
- 94% say getting more education/training
- 88% say going to college
- 87% say making a lot of money
- 82% say working in a field in which finding a job is easy
- 79% say helping the environment
- 78% say traveling the world

Science
- 90% say helping others
- 88% say making a lot of money
- 85% say working in a field in which finding a job is easy
- 84% say owning their own home
- 82% say helping the environment

A FEW MYTHS MIGHT HOLD THEM BACK FROM PURSUING IT CAREERS:

Myth 1: You have to be great in math and science to be successful.

Truth: Not all tech jobs require much math or science beyond the basics.

Myth 2: Jobs in technology are all about sitting alone in front of a computer and geeking out.

Truth: In reality, IT jobs are about helping people—and usually working in a collaborative team to make that happen.

Myth 3: You have to earn a four-year college degree.

Truth: Actually, several pathways can help you get started in an IT career without a degree.