EMPOWERING A NEW GENERATION OF INNOVATORS

AN EDUCATION IN INNOVATION

Together, NAF, MIT, and Lenovo enable the next generation of developers and entrepreneurs through the Lenovo Scholar Network. The mission of the initiative is to encourage high school students to consider careers in STEM by providing them with innovative curriculum centered on mobile app development and delivery.

Lenovo Scholar Network began as a pilot in 2012, when high school students from five NAF IT academies created and launched apps through the MIT Media Lab’s App Inventor. Today the program has extended its reach to 118 academies, serving over 5,000 students across the country.

NAF and Lenovo not only prepare students with the entrepreneurial and technological skills needed to pursue careers in computer science, programming, and engineering, but they also give students a unique competitive advantage.

In her speech at NAF’s 2016 Benefit student Tiyah Thompson said, “Being a part of NAF has pushed me out of my comfort zone and given me opportunities I would never have experienced in a traditional high school.” Not many students can say that they’ve created a mobile app while they were high school, but Tiyah Thompson was able to boast that she launched two.

Last spring, NAF and Lenovo announced the expansion of the Lenovo Scholar Network with a goal of advancing STEM education and opportunities to more than 10,000 additional students over the next three years.

Visit lenovoscholars.com to learn more.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

• Lenovo Scholar Network was launched in 2012

• The program serves over 5,000 students across the U.S.

• The program has extended to 118 of NAF’s IT academies.

• Lenovo plans to serve an additional 10,000 students over the next 3 years.

“We are proud of this partnership and the impact the Lenovo Scholar Network has made on young people across the country. STEM represents a critical need and opportunity, and programs like this help drive the next generation of technology leaders and entrepreneurs.”

- Rob Cato, Executive Director of North America Solutions Sales and Channel, Lenovo
Tiyah attended the Pathways Academy of Technology and Design, in Hartford, Connecticut. Pathways is a member of the NAF network and one of the NAF academies in the Lenovo Scholar Network. She created her first app, SmartRoom, as a sophomore. SmartRoom brings smart technology to a hotel room.

Tiyah paired up with a classmate to launch her second app, Savant, as a part of the Lenovo Mobile App Challenge, which was included as a part of the Lenovo Scholar Network in partnership with MIT. During the second half of the academic year, students used the MIT App Inventor to build and launch mobile apps for a chance to win a Lenovo laptop. Savant makes traditional textbooks mobile and was selected as one of the five winners for the year.

Mobile app development is just one of Tiyah’s many achievements as a NAF student in the Lenovo Scholar Network. The summer before her junior year, Tiyah was accepted into Harvard’s Secondary Summer Program, where she started receiving college credits at the age of sixteen, and entered the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship Business Plan with STEM Ball—a camp that empowers young urban females to learn about STEM concepts by relating them to basketball.

She also helped organize a Lenovo hackathon in her academy to help recruit middle school girls to NAF, which came to fruition thanks to Karen Ondrick, Lenovo’s former Chief Connector for Community Relations. “Ever since she and my teacher signed a contract on a napkin to create the hackathon, she has been an incredible source of support.”

Following her junior year, Tiyah was offered an internship at Travelers. She praises NAF for preparing her for where she is today.

“NAF transformed me into someone ready to take the world by storm and made my educational experience richer than I ever could have imagined. Because of NAF, I know my options are truly endless.”

Two years later, Tiyah is currently studying political science at the University of Connecticut. She spent the summer of 2017 serving as Digital Ambassador for Bank of America. Tiyah is just one example of the success that can be achieved when students are given the access to quality education and the right tools to forge a path towards a prosperous future. NAF and Lenovo plan to continue to work together to provide these opportunities to more students across the country.