



# JABC



# TechWorks

An exploration of technology careers for youth



# VANCOUVER PROGRAM REPORT

The Nest at The University of British Columbia

January 17, 2019



# AT A GLANCE



**450 Students**  
Grades 9 & 10



**55 Presenters**

**18 Partnering Companies**



**8 Breakout Sessions**





# SURVEYS

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As part of JABC's ongoing efforts to deliver relevant and meaningful learning experiences for youth, we conducted an online survey of all of the students who attended TechWorks. We received 301 survey responses which demonstrate the level of youth awareness of technology-related careers.

## Interest in a technology related career



After participating in *JABC TechWorks*, **53%** of students said that they are considering a career in technology.

## Awareness of employment opportunities



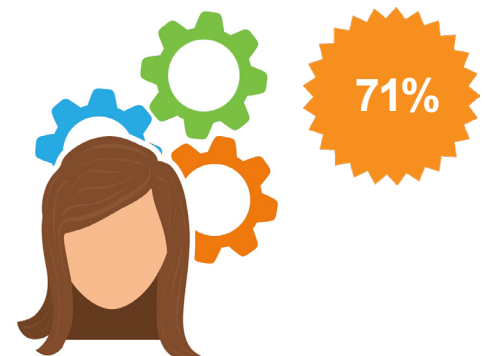
After participating in *JABC TechWorks*, **56%** of students stated that they are aware of employment opportunities in the technology sector.

## Awareness of training required



After participating in *JABC TechWorks*, **54%** of students said they planned on taking higher level math and science courses.

## Recommend TechWorks to a friend



After participating in *JABC TechWorks*, **71%** of students indicated that they would recommend TechWorks to a friend.



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As part of our new strategic plan, *Bright Futures for All BC's Youth*, to provide more students with access to JABC's life-changing programs, we held the biggest and best TechWorks to date in Vancouver this past winter and delivered on our expansion plan to Vancouver Island in December 2018.

**Why TechWorks?** As we have all heard, BC's tech sector is booming and the demand for highly skilled employees continues to outpace supply. According to KPMG's 2018 British Columbia technology report card, talent and scalability continue to be the two main constraints on BC's technology sector. In addition, many of the jobs that our current high schoolers will occupy in the future don't exist yet as automation is changing the workforce and the skills needed to adapt to these new jobs.

In response to this overwhelming demand for employees with new skills and knowledge, JABC came up with TechWorks in 2017, a full day expo for youth to discover the vast career opportunities available in BC's tech industry. The event is designed to encourage youth to think about their educational pathways and how they can set themselves up for a successful career in technology.

Motivating speakers, exhibit booths and interactive breakout sessions made up the day for approximately 450 grade 9 and 10 students across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Students and teachers commented on the quality of the speakers and their stories as well as the number of hands-on activities during the breakout sessions.

The overwhelming support of our sponsors and demand from educators for experiences such as TechWorks means we're going to continue with our regional expansion plans. With over 10,000 companies employing 100,000 British Columbians, it is no wonder the technology sector is one of BC's top economic drivers of growth and why JABC is at the forefront of preparing youth to be a part of BC's prosperous economy.



[View photo gallery](#)



[View highlights video](#)



**The most memorable part of my day was during the speaker presentations. They offered knowledge and experience upon us youth.**

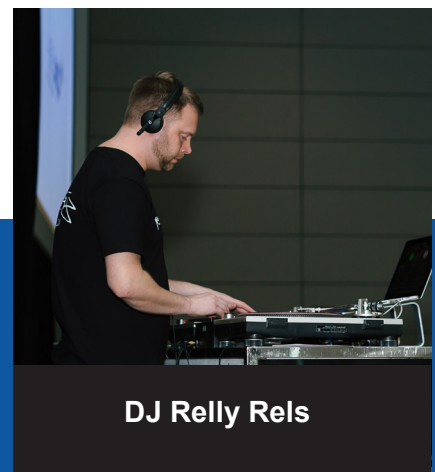
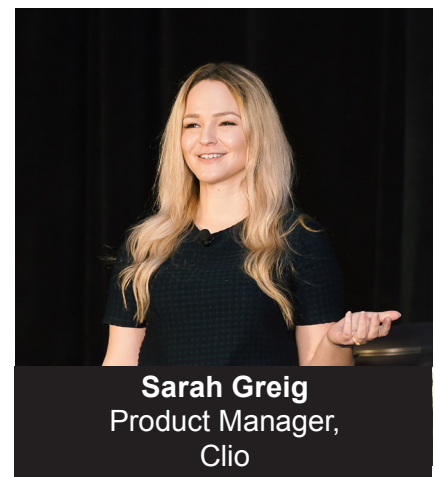
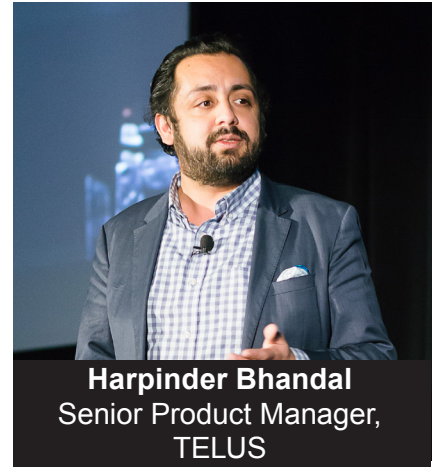
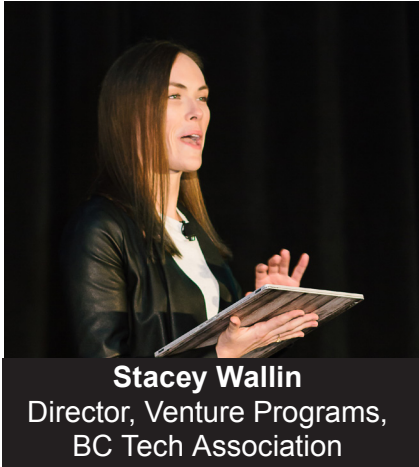
*- Student*





# MORNING PLENARY

The morning plenary at the Nest at UBC was a high energy introduction to the world of technology with a DJ, engaging speakers from technology-focused firms, an interactive polling activity with lessons from the JA *Economics for Success* program, and a live virtual reality demonstration. The speakers raised awareness of the increasing number of tech companies and start-ups that exist in BC and connected with the students by outlining their own paths, inspiring them to consider careers in the industry.





# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The eight breakout sessions consisted of interactive presentations from some of the largest tech companies in BC representing key sectors of the industry. Students were introduced to the various sectors, met professionals, experimented with new technologies and discussed the current tech landscape.

TELUS Future Technologies  
Presented by Telus



Emerging Technologies  
Presented by Accenture



The SAP Developers' Shop  
Presented by SAP



The most memorable moment was the Accenture presentation. The face scan technology was something like I've never seen before.

- Student





# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**It's not Rocket Science  
(Actually, it is!)**  
Presented by Maxar Technologies



**Powering BC**  
Presented by BC Hydro



**Visual Effects & Animation**  
Presented by Sony Pictures  
Imageworks



**I loved the Sony animation session, and found it really interesting how the characters were formed for movies.**  
- Student



# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## Women in Technology Presented by Deloitte



## Robotics Presented by Best Buy



Programming little BB-8 bots was the most fun.  
- Student







# CLOSING PLENARY

**A**t the closing plenary session, we were pleased to welcome special guests, The Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, Province of BC and Annelies Tjebbes, Principal, AnneliesVera Consulting, who inspired the students to take what they learned throughout the day to consider their next steps.



**Annelies Tjebbes**  
Principal,  
AnneliesVera Consulting

**Bruce Ralston**  
Minister of Jobs, Trade &  
Technology, Province of BC

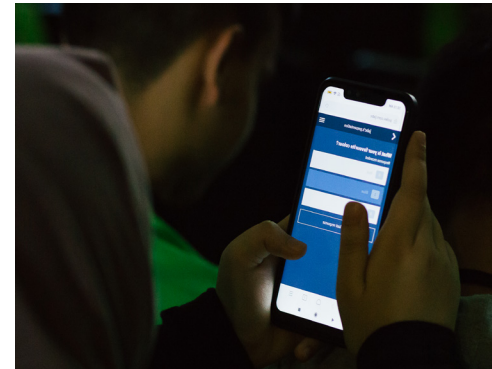
**Sheila Biggers**  
President & CEO,  
JABC



Thanks to the generosity of our partners, some lucky students walked away with 3D printing pens + BB-8 robots!



A huge thank you to all of our partners for making this event possible!



Students used their smartphones to answer live questions during the morning plenary.



**The most memorable part of TechWorks was listening to the different stories about how the speakers contributed and worked in the tech sector.**

*- Student*





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