Discover Computing is a two-part program series designed for 9th and 10th graders to build skills in computing and provide awareness of tech careers and computer science pathways. The program launched in Fall 2021 in partnership with Wilbur Wright College and support from Google Chicago across 5 Saturdays at DPI’s downtown offices.

Students explored computing concepts and tools, including web development, data analysis, software engineering and machine learning. Students connected with Google mentors and other leaders from the tech community, and developed problem-solving and team-building skills through design thinking activities. The program will expand in Spring 2022 and beyond.

About the participants

87% Percentage of students who identify as Black or Latinx

45% Percentage of students who identify as female or identify as non-binary
Percentage of students who said they gained an understanding of:

- 96% The next steps or options toward a pathway in computing or a technology related field.
- 96% The impact of computing in society.
- 100% The use of human-centered design and design thinking to solve problems.
- 100% How to use software tools.
- 96% Data science and data analysis using Python.
- 91% HTML/CSS and basics of website development.
- 87% Collaboration skills.
- 96% Communication skills.
- 96% Problem-solving skills.
Making connections and looking to the future

- **87%** Felt an increased sense of belonging in the tech community.

- **91%** Said they felt more confident that computing and technology-related fields need diverse talent.

- **87%** Said they are more confident to be successful in computer science courses.

- **87%** Felt more motivated to figure out next steps related to pursuing education or career options in computing or technology-related fields.
Student testimonials:
In their own words

“Overall, I think the introduction of a variety of CS and technology-related careers and topics was really helpful. It helped develop a sense of options, and broke the stereotypes that CS is just sitting at a computer coding for hours straight.”

“I learned how to use HTML and Python which could be very useful in the future.”

“I was able to get a better understanding of computer science and work with others who are already a part of the community...”

“The program really gave me a lot of resources to use when I'm home to better enrich my knowledge.”