



2024 Annual Report

techfrederick



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techfrederick.org

Executive Director's Message



As we close out an incredible year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we have accomplished together. 2024 has been a year of growth, innovation, and collaboration, and I am deeply grateful for each of you who has contributed to techfrederick's success.

This year, we hosted our largest-ever techfrederick Games, bringing the community together in an exciting and spirited display of teamwork and camaraderie. We also held the second annual Techie Awards, celebrating the brilliant minds and groundbreaking achievements that continue to drive Frederick's tech ecosystem forward. These moments have reinforced how strong and dynamic our local technology community is.

Beyond events, we have seen tremendous expansion in our training programs, equipping more individuals with the skills needed to thrive in an evolving industry. Our membership has grown, our sponsorships have increased, and our advocacy efforts have amplified the voices of Frederick's tech sector. We have actively championed significant initiatives like the Downtown Hotel and Conference Center and the Data Center project—both of which will have a lasting impact on our region's economic development.

As we look ahead to 2025, we do so with great enthusiasm and optimism. With the formation of our new Board of Directors, we are poised to elevate our programs, enhance our partnerships, and extend our outreach to even more businesses and individuals. This new leadership structure will enable us to strengthen our impact and foster an environment where technology and innovation can flourish in Frederick.

None of this would be possible without the support of our members, sponsors, and partners. Your dedication and engagement fuel our mission, and I am excited about all we will achieve together in the coming year.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Here's to a bright and successful 2025!

With gratitude and excitement,



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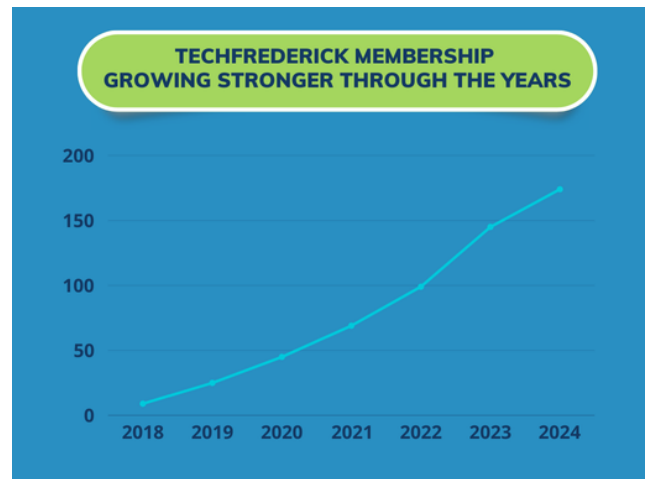
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The Year in Review



This year was techfrederick’s biggest yet, with record-breaking events, expanded initiatives, and growing partnerships reinforcing our mission to support a thriving tech community. Membership surged as more professionals and companies joined our network, and new collaborations with industry leaders, local businesses, and educators amplified our impact.

Workforce development remained a priority, with a record number of training sessions through the Maryland Department of Labor EARN grant, equipping participants with in-demand skills in emerging technologies, project management, and AI. Our 9th Annual Tech Games had a record-high participation. Day of Tech successfully connected students, professionals, and employers to showcase career opportunities, and the Techie Awards continued highlighting the innovators shaping our community.



As we move into 2025, techfrederick is committed to further expanding our training programs, strengthening strategic partnerships, and creating even more opportunities for our members to connect, learn, and grow. With new initiatives on the horizon and an ever-growing network of supporters, the future has never been brighter for our tech community.

Mission & Financial Overview

Mission

We cultivate a strong tech community through advocacy, connections, and education, fostering opportunities for all.
#moretechinfrederick



Funding Summary

\$37,495
Corporate & Individual Contributions

\$189,323
EARN Grant Funding

\$114,100
Program Income

Expenditures

\$231,391
Operating

\$129,262
EARN

\$41,595
Programming

2024 Highlights



Day of Tech

techfrederick's third annual Day of Tech welcomed 75 Frederick High School students for a hands-on experience to spark curiosity about tech careers. In partnership with Frederick County Public Schools' LYNX program, the event at Hood College featured interactive sessions led by local industry leaders in application development, AI, cybersecurity, data visualization, and project management. Students chose sessions based on their interests and connected with professionals over a networking lunch, leaving them inspired and excited about new career possibilities.



With growing success, techfrederick received a generous Equity and Inclusion Splash Grant from the City of Frederick to expand Day of Tech to additional high schools and community organizations. This funding will allow even more students to explore tech careers, meet mentors, and discover new opportunities.

2024 Highlights



The 9th annual techfrederick Games took over Baker Park on October 4th, delivering a day packed with fun, competition, and team spirit, all supporting the local tech community. With 34 teams competing and nearly 80 volunteers lending their support, this year marked the largest turnout in the event's history. Sponsored by 23 local businesses, participants tackled ten '90s-themed challenges to encourage teamwork and problem-solving. Beyond the competition, the event raised over \$2,500 for Butterfly Ridge Elementary, providing funding for an after-school STEM club and new recess equipment to support students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Our community gives back as ferociously as we play!



2024 Highlights

2nd Annual Techie Awards

On December 10, 2024, techfrederick hosted the second annual Techie Awards at Union Mills Public House, celebrating the exceptional contributions of individuals and companies in Frederick's technology sector. Eight award winners were honored across various categories. The ceremony attracted over 130 attendees, reflecting the strength and unity of Frederick's tech community.



From left: Digital Drift - the techfrederick boat, proudly on display in Carroll Creek for Sailing the Winter Solstice; middle - Executive Director Meghan Sweigart participated in the inaugural Maryland Data Center Summit; right - techfrederick was selected as a recipient of the City of Frederick Equity and Inclusion Splash Grant. This grant will expand the Day of Tech program to several high schools in Frederick County. The goal is to provide students with insight into various tech career paths and showcase the possibilities within the technology field.

Aspire Training Program

The Aspire Training Program, made possible by the Maryland Department of Labor EARN Grant, continues to offer tailored training solutions aimed at bridging critical skill gaps and addressing workforce shortages in the tech community. This program remains a cornerstone of our commitment to equipping professionals with the expertise necessary to thrive in an evolving industry, ensuring that local businesses have access to a skilled and adaptable workforce.



**EARN Grant Funds
Received in 2024**

\$189,323



**Training Classes
Conducted in 2024**

14



**Training Class
Participants in 2024**

247

"I recently completed the EARN training program through techfrederick, and I couldn't be more impressed. I've already seen a positive impact on my career. The skills I gained from the EARN training have given me the confidence to pursue new opportunities and advance in my field." - EARN Training Class Participant

"For anyone considering techfrederick's training—DO IT! The small investment paid off in ways I never imagined, from career growth to meaningful professional relationships."
- Christy, EARN Training Class Participant

Looking Ahead



A Message from Board President, Josh Yeager

As the President of the Board of Directors of techfrederick, I am enormously grateful for all the people who contributed to our mission over the past year. We received generous sponsorships from our community and partners, allowing us to serve Frederick County well.

The new members of the Board hit the ground running with great ideas and enthusiastic support. And more people than ever volunteered to help us significantly impact our community.

In 2025, we will focus on several key priorities. Our Aspire technical training initiative will help even more people to grow their skills and advance their careers. Our Diversity Committee will work with Frederick County Public Schools to show students the opportunities available in the tech world. We will invest in our community through events like networking breakfasts, happy hours, and the Tech Games. We will continue to advocate for local and state governments on behalf of Frederick's tech community.

We will improve our marketing and member outreach to expand techfrederick's membership base. We will also work to deepen our connections with local companies in government contracting and life sciences and the IT teams within large organizations. We will build relationships with new and existing partners to show the value of techfrederick and encourage them to support our mission financially and with their time.

None of this is possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff, board members, volunteers, and partners. Your passion and commitment have been a massive inspiration to me and all of us. With your help, we will continue significantly impacting our local tech community and Frederick County.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and commitment to our cause. I look forward to working with you to expand our reach, serve our community, and strengthen our organization.

Thank you to our 2024 Strategic Partners



DCM BioServices



WOODSBORO BANK

MA Roat Consulting, LLC

2024 Executive Board

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Josh Yeager, Board President, HighGear

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Jon Bailey, Board Vice President, Brand3

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Jeff Griffin, Board Secretary, DCM BioServices

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Ryan Harshman, Board Treasurer, Brown Plus

Mike Battle, BRMi

Maria Roat, MA Roat Consulting, LLC

Andres Mendoza, IsNull Softworks

2024 Advisory Board

Solash Aviles, Frederick County Office of Economic Development

Jillian DeShazer, BRMi

Steve Flook, iHire

Mary Ford-Naill, The City of Frederick Dept of Economic Development

Matt Layman, Included Health

Kimberly Mentzell, MD Department of Commerce

Kara Norman, Downtown Frederick Partnership

Grant Otto, Sentinel Roof Technologies

Jonathan Pernell, Bolt Innovations Group, LLC

Patrick Pierson, John R. Webb VFW

Michael Spinosa, Shield 7 Consulting

Jeremy Scholtes, Miles & Stockbridge

Cherie Wigfield, Edgewater Federal Solutions

Christine Wrobel-Holt, ExecuSense, LLC

techfrederick Staff

Meghan Sweigart, Executive Director

Brooke Faulkner, Operations & Training Manager

