

III. Abstract

Pathways Academy of Technology and Design is an award-winning magnet school on a national level, earning the titles of Distinguished Academy for 2013 from the National Academy Foundation and Magnet School of Distinction for 2013 from Magnet Schools of America. Our focus on the creative application of information technology is a clear theme that forms the basis of our community. With solid increases in both diversity and academic performance and significant progress in eliminating the achievement gap, Pathways' 2013 data demonstrates that we strongly fulfill the goals of a magnet school.

Our academic program rests on two pillars: Project Based Learning and Technology Integration. Students at Pathways learn through creative projects that integrate technology to deepen learning. Each student gets a laptop computer to facilitate this creative, technology-driven education. History students make films exploring the meaning and significance of the past; Math students write computer programs that model financial concepts; Business students plan award-winning entrepreneurial ideas; and in classes such as Robotics, Computer Programming and Graphic Design students develop 21st Century skills and technological creativity.

Our partnerships with the business community – propelled by the vibrant Industry Advisory Board of local business professionals that we established as a member of the National Academy Foundation association of schools – allow our students to develop their areas of interest through internships, career exploration and mentoring in alignment with our technology magnet theme.