



TechTogether

2020-2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

Making the future better, together.



## ABOUT TECHTOGETHER

TechTogether, the nation's largest initiative to address the gender inequities in the hackathon community, supports over 10,000 hackers. TechTogether is credited in part with increasing the gender diversity of the hackathon community by 18% from 2019 to 2020.

## OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

### Fiona Whittington

Co-Founder & Executive Director

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### Lisa Vu

Co-Founder & Advisor

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### Christopher Scranton

Board of Directors

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### Nicole Gilmore

Board of Directors

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### Kelly Ly

Chapter Coordinator

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### Sreeya Sai

Co-Founder & Advisor

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### Helen Bui

Board of Directors

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### Colleen Grant

Board of Directors

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## NEALA MENDOZA, HACKER



"TECHTOGETHER PROVED THAT ANYONE WITH ANY BACKGROUND CAN LEARN AND CREATE A PROJECT."

## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Hackathons are the easiest and fastest way to inspire an individual to pursue a career in technology and build a technical skill-set.

However, due to stereotypes and other societal barriers, people of marginalized genders have traditionally been underrepresented in the hackathon community.

Gender-focused hackathons combat these barriers by fostering safe and inclusive environments. Gender-focused hackathons can be used as both recruitment and retention tools for people of marginalized genders in the hackathon community, and broader tech community.

### CURRENT CONDITIONS

Hackathons are inaccessible to people of marginalized genders largely due to social barriers.

### OUR MISSION

Increase the gender diversity and inclusion of the hackathon community.

### OUR STRATEGY

Provide safe and inclusive hackathons for people of marginalized genders that are accessible and affordable.

### UNIQUE APPROACH

- All of our hackathons remain led by community volunteers. This allows us to continue building up a grassroots movement from the bottom up.
- TechTogether does not impose an age registration on our hackathons, which allows us to serve hard-to-reach groups like Bootcamp students.
- TechTogether was one of the few virtual hackathons that made laptops available to hackers as needed free of cost.

### OUR VISION

Achieve gender parity in the United States hackathon community.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

This year, TechTogether expanded our Chapter Program and launched four new initiatives.

We launched these new initiatives with the aim of creating more opportunities for hackers to engage with TechTogether outside of our hackathons.

### CHAPTER PROGRAM (COLLEGE-FOCUSED)

The Chapter Program is a training program designed to equip organizers with the skills, resources, and support to host a TechTogether hackathon in their city.

### PREHACKS (HIGH SCHOOL)

PreHacks is a free two-day program co-hosted with Boston University and BU Spark! for women (cis and trans) and non-binary high schoolers to learn more about career paths in STEM and learn coding fundamentals.

### MONTHLY WORKSHOPS (PUBLIC)

TechTogether co-hosts 1-3 workshops per month for the public to bring new hackers into the TechTogether community.

### ALUMNI COMMITTEE (INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS)

TechTogether's Alumni committee supports our growing community of new graduates and industry professionals.

### RESEARCH

TechTogether publishes a research report every year on a topic at the intersection of diversity and hackathons.

## TECHTOGETHER'S 2020-2021 HACKATHON SEASON SNAPSHOT

**2698**

HACKERS SERVED

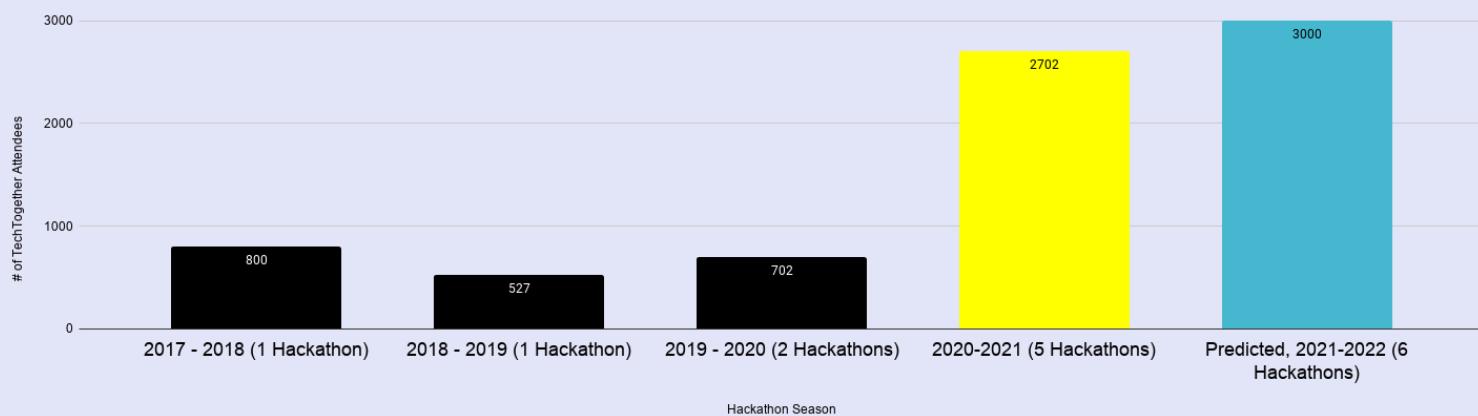
**55%**FIRST-TIME  
HACKERS**\$29.8K**AWARDED IN  
PRIZES**195**WORKSHOPS &  
ACTIVITIES**98% AVG.**HACKATHON  
RECOMMENDATION  
RATING**284%**HACKATHON  
ATTENDANCE  
INCREASE**112**CHAPTER  
ORGANIZERS

## TECHTOGETHER MORE THAN DOUBLES IMPACT IN ONE YEAR

TechTogether increased our total number of hackers served from last year by 284% from 702 to 2698 hackers. Of these hackers, 55% had never attended a hackathon before.

A majority of our community remains college students (52%) studying computer science (74%) with a growing representation of high school students (20.5%) and post-grads or Bootcamp students (27.1%).

# of Hackathon Attendees Per Hackathon Season



## NEW CHAPTERS IN CHICAGO & MIAMI

On average, TechTogether's hackathons this season had a 98% recommendation rating. TechTogether is excited to announce that we will be opening up two new locations in 2021-2022 this upcoming hackathon season in Chicago, IL and Miami, FL.

This hackathon season, TechTogether provided a total of \$29.8k in prizes, 77 challenges, and 195 workshops/activities.

These resources led to the creation of 249 projects created by teams of 2-6 hackers, a 149% increase from 100 projects the previous hackathon season.

## PREHACKS & NEW PROGRAMS

PreHacks is a free two-day program co-hosted with Boston University and BU Spark! for women (cis and trans) and non-binary high schoolers to learn more about career paths in STEM and learn coding fundamentals.

PreHacks was hosted 4 times before each major TechTogether hackathon and served 251 high school students. The program had an average 99% recommendation rating and offered a total of 64 workshops.

### MALAK ABDELDAYEM, HACKER & PREHACKS ATTENDEE



**"AT PREHACKS NEW YORK, I GAINED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HACKATHONS AND GAINED CONFIDENCE IN MY COMPUTER SCIENCE SKILLS.**

**IN FACT, I WAS EVEN MORE PREPARED FOR MY SECOND HACKATHON THAN MY FIRST ONE. THIS ENCOURAGED ME TO SIGN UP FOR TECH TOGETHER NEW YORK."**

## OUR GROWING HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY

PreHacks fulfilled its goal of funneling more high schoolers into the hacker community, **35% of attendees converted into TechTogether hackathon participants.**

TechTogether is excited to continue expanding this program next year.

## OUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

The shift to hosting virtual hackathons, allowed hackers from around the world to participate in our hackathons. We estimate that 27% of our attendees were from outside the United States. Most of our international hackers came from Canada or India.

**TechTogether's community is largely made up of hackers from the following universities:**

- Boston University
- Cornell University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Hunter College
- Mount Holyoke College
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Queens College
- Rutgers University
- UC Berkeley
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Michigan
- University of Washington
- University of Waterloo
- Wellesley College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

### EMILY COOPER, HACKER



**"TECHTOGETHER COMPLETELY CHANGED MY OUTLOOK ON HACKATHONS AND HAS HELPED ME GAIN CONFIDENCE IN BOTH MYSELF AND MY TECHNICAL ABILITIES."**

## OUR FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR, INCREASING RACIAL DIVERSITY

According to the 2020 MLH State of the League report, "Last year, only 4% of our community identified as Black or African, and 7% identified as Latino."

TechTogether's hackathon attendees identified as: 54% Asian / Pacific Islander, 16% White / Caucasian, 8.5% Black/African American, and 8% Hispanic.

TechTogether's top priority for this year is to focus on increasing the racial diversity of our community. **TechTogether is already working with several partners to do pioneering research in this area.**

## OUR CHAPTER PROGRAM

TechTogether hackathons are able to be community-led through our Chapter Program. TechTogether supported 112 organizers in the planning of their respective chapter hackathons.

According to our exit surveys, over 63% of our organizers this year reported using their TechTogether experience during interviews and 100% said they would recommend the experience to a friend.

TechTogether is proud to share that 18% of our organizers reported landing a job from being a TechTogether organizer and a majority report that the program helped them learn relevant and useful professional skills.

### 2019-2020 TECHTOGETHER BOSTON ORGANIZERS



PRIYANKSHI GAWARVALA,  
TECHTOGETHER ALUMNAE

"AFTER EXPERIENCING TECHTOGETHER BOSTON AS A HACKER AND LATER AS THE CO-DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, I LEARNED TO BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS EVEN AS A NON-PROGRAMMER.

THIS HAS HELPED ME A LOT POST-GRADUATION IN MY FULL-TIME ROLE AS AN ASSOCIATE PRODUCT MANAGER FOR CONSUMER REVENUE AT BOSTON GLOBE MEDIA."

## MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

Since we started hosting monthly workshops in September 2020, TechTogether has co-hosted 10+ events for the public.

TechTogether's workshops cover a range of topics, but a majority are beginner-friendly skill-building or career development workshops. On average, our workshops get 30-40 participants.

**FIONA WHITTINGTON,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**Tip:** If you get stuck on a bug, try and find a mentor!



### Hackathon Roles

- Project/Presentation Lead
- Design Lead
- Front-end Developer
- Back-end Developer
- Back-seat Learner

### Tips

- Focus on time management.
- Figure out which tasks you need to prioritize.

**GUADALUPE MEDINA,  
HACKER**



"I REMEMBER THE FIRST-EVER HACKATHON THAT I ATTENDED WAS TECHTOGETHER NEW YORK AND IT REALLY HELPED TAKE THE FEAR AWAY FROM HACKATHONS BECAUSE OF THE AMAZING COMMUNITY AND MY TEAM."

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2020-2021, SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### SEASON SPONSOR

Boston University & BU Spark!

### 2020-2021 SPONSORS

- Balsamiq
- Facebook
- Liberty Mutual
- Amazon
- Northeastern Khoury
- Capital One
- Pega Systems
- VMWare
- MassTech
- Travelers
- Progress Software
- Bloomberg
- Red Hat
- Capital One
- MassMutual
- SAP
- Bloomberg
- Balsamiq
- SmartSheet
- Accenture
- Microsoft
- Verizon Connect
- NCR
- Emerson
- Athena Health
- Twilio
- Northeastern (Khoury College)

### 2020-2021 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Digital Page
- Essteem
- echoAR
- A.I. For Anyone
- Careers Decoded
- CodeBar

### SUBSTANTIAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

- Lisa Vu
- Audrey Whittington
- Miriam Cutler

