

Hi, my name is Dhruv Sethi, and I am a student majoring in Computer Science at Middlesex College. I previously served as the president of the Computer Science Club, where we hosted various tech workshops and led our team to victory at a Hackathon at The College of New Jersey. More than 50 members of the Computer Science Club participated in this hackathon and my team was featured in 6 different newspapers across the state for our win.

After submitting my application to this program, I felt compelled to do more for the computer science community around me. This drive led me to establish the GitHub Club at Middlesex College, and now I lead a team of 9 dedicated students who work alongside me to host GitHub workshops for students and faculty.

Our GitHub Club is all about empowering students with essential GitHub skills since it is a tool nearly used by every tech company. We meet each week with a new GitHub skill each time. We started from the basics, and are gradually moving up to job-ready skills. Our goal is to ensure everyone feels comfortable using GitHub in a professional setting. But that's not all. We also encourage our 60+ members to take the GitHub Foundations certification exam.

It's a great way to boost their resumes and validate their skills. I'm proud to say that all our team members are already certified and are capable of teaching other students about GitHub. Looking ahead, in the next 6 months, we aim for all of our 60+ members to pass the GitHub Foundations certification exam. How will we measure success? By the number of students who get certified which in turn highlights their fluency in advanced topics like CI/CD, GitHub workflows, and automation. It's going to be a busy yet exciting time!

To me, being a GitHub Campus Expert is a huge opportunity. It's about making a real impact on my community. I can provide resources, mentorship, and a platform for students to enhance their technical skills. It's also about collaboration—working on projects together and preparing our members for their future careers in tech. Being a GitHub Campus Expert allows me to foster an environment of continuous learning and support for both students and faculty who are eager to improve their technical skills.

A problem that we believe that we faced initially was engaging less active and new members. To solve that, we have a dedicated Discord server set up for any questions or help that the members might need. We are always available for them. Additionally, at the end of each session, we play a fun Kahoot quiz where everyone takes part.

It acts as a recap of what was covered in the session. Apart from this, we plan to implement a buddy system where experienced members pair up with newcomers. This helps new members feel welcomed and supported right away. We will also host introductory workshops and Q&A sessions outside of our regular meeting schedule to make sure everyone is up to speed in case they miss any of our regular sessions.

Our ultimate goal is to create an inclusive and engaging environment for the learners. Feedback is vital for our growth. We gather it through regular surveys and open discussions. For instance, we noticed a demand for workshops to be more hands-on. So, we dedicate some time in each session for our members to try out what we taught them.

For example, in the last session, we covered Git CLI commands, and our volunteers helped members practice these commands. This way, our members got used to it and actually learned how the commands work.

This change has significantly boosted engagement and skill development among our members. Our plans don't stop there. We're diving into advanced topics like CI/CD, GitHub workflows, automations, and GitHub projects next.

We are also planning to organize hackathons, guest lectures from industry professionals and other GitHub campus experts, and collaborative projects with other clubs. These activities will broaden our community's learning experiences and keep everyone excited and motivated to learn about GitHub.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. I'm genuinely excited about the potential to further support and grow our community as a GitHub Campus Expert. I can't wait to contribute to the program and help my fellow students achieve their goals. Looking forward to hearing back from you soon. Have a great day!