



SARRC

Southwest Autism
Research & Resource Center

300 N. 18th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85006

The Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC) would like the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) to provide funding of up to \$7,500 to individuals with Autism in financial need to participate in a Tech Camp. The camp will be held at the University of Advancing Technology (UAT) campus in Tempe, Arizona July 22 – 28, 2018 and will provide an opportunity for youth and young adults with Autism to participate in an immersive college experience, including exposure to: admissions, dorm life, classes and homework, group projects, and college life skills.

About the Tech Camp Project:

During the weeklong camp, participants will have the opportunity to complete the college admissions process, reside in a dormitory, attend classes, collaborate in teams, use new technology, complete a group project, and take part in student life activities. At the conclusion of the program, camp participants will celebrate their achievements with family members during a graduation and group project presentation ceremony. Tech Camp accepts participants ranging in age from 16 to 26 and allows them an opportunity to live away from home for a week and learn skills in robotics, gaming, and coding. Participants fall into three categories: those who are looking to go on to college, those with some college experience and may plan to enroll in the future, and those who have never attended college and may lack the confidence to participate in the college experience. Participants gain a deeper understanding of all the skills needed for a successful college experience: admissions, academics, extra-curriculars, life skills and social activities with other college students. Tech Camp is coordinated by SARRC; sponsored and taught by UAT.

Special Emphasis on Need-based Financial Assistance

Participation for at least five participants is need-based. Participation is based solely on the assets and income of the prospective young adult and his or her family.

Currently the Tech Camp is only offered to youth and young adults who can afford the \$1,500 registration fee. The ADDPC will provide financial assistance to cover the cost of registration for at least five youth or young adults. If financial need requests are less than \$1,500 per applicant, additional participants may be recruited to reach maximum of \$7,500 provided by ADDPC.

ADDPC may consider expanding program to other individuals with cross-disabilities who reside outside Maricopa County.

Reportable Deliverables from Participation in Tech Camp

1. SARRC will coordinate 2018 Tech Camp program with University of Advancing Technology.
2. SARRC will develop strategy to identify and recruit up to five youth and young adults with Autism, with confirmed financial need who are interested in attending Tech Camp.
3. SARRC will create Statement of Financial Need for youth and young adults with adults who wish to participate in 2018 College Prep Summer Camp.
4. SARRC will confirm by July 6, 2018 at least five youth and young adults with Autism who will participate in Tech Camp. SARRC will provide name, age, address and signed Statement of Financial Need statement. Information will remain confidential and will not be made public. If financial need requests are less than \$1,500 per applicant, additional participants may be recruited to reach maximum of \$7,500 provided by ADDPC.
5. SARRC will recruit up to five youth and young adults in age from 16 to 26; and recruited individuals will fall into one of the three categories identified in Target Population, (1) those who are looking to go on to college, (2) those with some college experience and may plan to enroll in the future, and (3) those who have never attended college and may lack the confidence to participate in the college experience.
6. SARRC will coordinate and University of Advancing Technology (UAT) will sponsor Tech Camp July 22 – 28, 2018 at the UAT campus 2626 West Baseline Road, Tempe, Arizona 85283.
7. SARRC will work with ADDPC to establish evaluation measures. In addition, SARRC will administer surveys to Tech Camp participants 3 and 6 months after. Some evaluation measures may include: are individuals who participated in program considering attending college? Have they registered for college courses? Did they gain college life skills by participating in Tech Camp?
8. SARRC will prepare report for ADDPC describing individual and overall program outcomes.
9. SARRC will share and present 2018 Tech Camp outcomes to ADDPC Full Council Meeting.

Respectfully,

Brad Herron-Valenzuela, M.Ed.
Transition Academy Instructor
Vocational & Life Skills Academy
Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center