SMART Code of Life: Fall 2018 TechStartup Incubator

Adult Lead: Mrs. Laura Tew

Student Lead: Ambica Ramchandra

How it all began…

- Ambica founded SMART Code of Life towards the conclusion of her 2nd year in high school merely out of the desire to blend her strong interests in STEM to assist others explore the computer science field.

- The Triad area lacked programs that fused the pure science and social science fields with technology. Hence, SMART looks to bridge via computer science, neuroscience, and business.

- It took 1 solid year to develop the SMART curriculum. Finally in the summer of 2018, SMART was ready to be introduced to the public. I pitched my idea to Mrs. Tew and she provided a great deal of assistance and advice on how to implement! ☺ She has really been the strong backbone of our organization.

- Team has grown to consist of 8 young high school women!

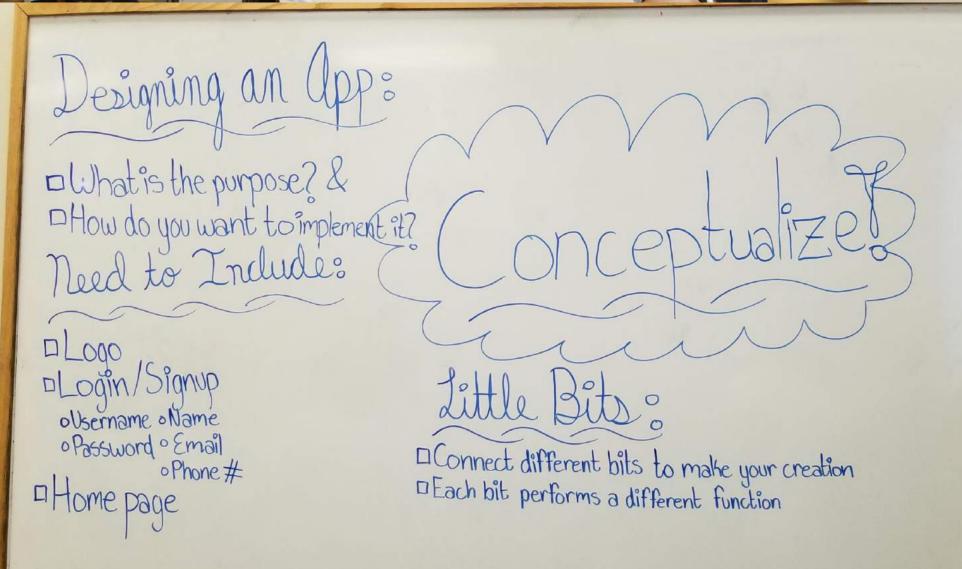- SMART Website: https://smartlifeteam.wixsite.com/ncsmartcodeoflife

Our Mission…

- We are a group of young North Carolina women who believe our future lies at uncovering the unknown through unconventionality- a characteristic of Gen Z. We founded SMART Code of Life to encourage students to doggedly pursue intellectual risks while enjoying the path they have chosen. We wanted both girls and boys from all backgrounds to excel in STEM fields through unconventional pursuits, and that is when SMART Code of Life was created to bridge the gap.

National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT)

- The TechStartup Incubator was funded by NCWIT. We have been granted a total of 2 grants to run the TechStartup Incubator, of which one program was held this fall and another will be held next year in the Spring time.

- NCWIT → Aspirations in Computing High School

  - Applied to the NCWIT high school award & won the regional award

  - Presented many opportunities in STEM, of which one was applying for funding.

  - I wrote a grant proposal detailing the program purpose, goal, methods, and desired outcomes.

  - Successfully received funding from NCWIT. The money has graciously been donated by Intel, Google, Northrop Grumman, BNY Mellon and Apple.

Designing an App:

- ☐ What is the purpose? &
- ☐ How do you want to implement it?

Need to Include:

- ☐ Logo
- ☐ Login/Signup
  - ○ Username ○ Name
  - ○ Password ○ Email
    - ○ Phone #
- ☐ Home page

Conceptualize!

Little Bits:

- ☐ Connect different bits to make your creation
- ☐ Each bit performs a different function

The TechStartup Incubator Initiative

- The girls worked with software such as MIT App Inventor, IF This Then That, and other technology materials such as the Internet of Things technology, littleBits sensors and circuits kit, and VR headsets.

- The aim of this program was to help the girls form a makeshift technology/science startup. The girls were led through 3 curriculums: MIT App Inventor, Internet of Things technology, and Business/Entrepreneurship.

- We also had a wonderful guest speaker, who spoke to the girls about her experience working with NASA and as a woman navigating the STEM field.

- The girls where then given opportunities to work on creating their own mobile applications and IoT projects to address real world social issues. As a group, we engaged in many intense and critically conversations that compelled each of us to critically analyze the world around us. At the same time, we had great fun! Towards the end we had a dance party!

Reflection & Future

○ SMART Code of Life plans to continue working one-on-one with the students at the North Carolina African Services Coalition.

○ We plan to expand our outreach initiatives. Thus far we have impacted 41 students in the Triad area. Our team visited Rankin elementary school's after school program to teach students the basics of neuroscience.

○ Our goal for 2019….

   ○ To expand our impact to 100 students

   ○ Increase our networking with working professionals and companies within our vicinity

   ○ Increase our partnerships and sponsors, so we may hopefully conduct more programs

      ○ A great deal of money is invested in this program, hence it is our responsibility to find more avenues providing fees that curtail the high costs

Thank you for your time.