



Passion for computer science nurtured through the TEALS program

Joevell Arnold took his first computer science class through the Microsoft TEALS Program. Now Joevell, from Detroit, Michigan, is teaching CS artificial intelligence and coding to everyone from elementary-aged kids to professional basketball players.

Joevell Arnold's high school teacher, Judi Dent, was new to teaching CS and was supported by industry professionals volunteering through TEALS. She challenged him to learn more programming languages and make his projects more complex. Arnold wrote code by hand in a notebook at night, since he didn't have a computer at home, and tested it the next day in the TEALS computer lab.

He thrived. It felt as if he were finally getting a chance to learn something he'd always been curious about. And if it weren't for that CS class in Detroit's West Side Academy, he might never have had the opportunity to try.

Later in the school year, during a field trip, Dent raved about Arnold's natural skill and persistence to a Microsoft employee. That conversation led to an internship with Microsoft. "If it wasn't for her vouching for me, I would never be where I am today," he says.

The internship turned into a Microsoft fellowship, and now he is now following in Dent's footsteps as a CS instructor. With the nonprofit CODE313, he teaches programming and leads coding workshops so everyone in Detroit has the opportunity to discover if they love CS, too.

Dent has believed in Arnold every step of the way. She says, "I see him as a leader. It's really been an exciting journey to expose him to an area that has so many opportunities."



"The major thing I've learned about myself is that I really like coding, but teaching is my forte," Arnold says. "Ms. Dent inspired me and pushed me to keep going. When I teach, I feel that same satisfaction of helping people."

Arnold has many years ahead of helping people. He graduated from his alternative public high school at 16, and he is still exploring where his path will take him. Arnold's considering moving to Japan to teach or enrolling in college at Wayne State University.

"I like nontraditional learning, like bootcamps, because anyone can join," Joevell says. "The kids tell me about what they like, about their interests. I like it when they understand the code and ask me questions. That's the real fun part."

If Joevell Arnold has his way, he'll inspire dozens—no, hundreds or even thousands—of young people to discover the fun of CS.

"He can use that ability, that talent, to excel and advance in life," says Charles Stacy Harris III, a senior software architect at Microsoft. "He has a lot to give back. He can be the next great transformative genius in the world."



Learn more about TEALS (Technology, Education, and Literacy in Schools) Program and how you can inspire students to pursue a career in technology—virtually or in-person at [Microsoft.com/TEALS](https://www.microsoft.com/TEALS)