

toward education worth \$1,325 and training in two of the most sought-after programs for web design and game development on the market. Schools are already lining up to take part in these programs, but there's room for more. If you know of a high school or technical center that may want to participate, please have them contact Digital Wish, right away.

Southern Mentorship Coordinator Celia Olson explains that, "We've designed a technology-based after-school program where each of the e-Vermont elementary schools can forge stronger connections to their neighboring high schools. It's a great opportunity for students to develop leadership skills in preparation for college and the eventual workforce."

The Program

The after-school programs are organized by Digital Wish staff, but the high school students will be the experts mentoring the elementary school children, making for a more community-driven learning environment. The after school programs run anywhere from 4-8 weeks in each town, during each school's regular club schedule. The high school mentors commit to attending the 1-day symposium in January, and then volunteering for 2 hours, 1-2 days per week, for the 4-8 week term of the local school's club. Each team of mentors is organizing transportation, and Digital Wish has 1-2 computers available to each mentor team so that they can practice their skills. Program sponsors include Microsoft – donating software and training; Dell – contributing matching funds for the computers; VITA-Learn – donating 19 computers in support of participating high need schools; and VCRD – with staff and equipment funding through e-Vermont: The Community Broadband Project.

The Contests

Behind the scenes, Digital Wish is planning an exciting "surprise" contest component to wrap up the program at the end of the school year. Participating students will submit their projects into a statewide online competition. All schools in Vermont state are invited to participate, and there will be motivating students technology prizes for the winners. The deadline for submissions will be May 31st, 2012 – so watch for the contest here:

<http://www.blinkcontest.com/>

Sign up Now!

If you know of a high school or tech center interested in participating, please have them sign up right away. Here's the information link:

<http://www.digitalwish.com/Tech-Club/html/home.html>

About Digital Wish

Digital Wish is a non-profit on a mission to solve technology shortfalls in K-12 classrooms. At www.digitalwish.org teachers can make technology wish lists... and supporters make those wishes come true. PTA's and PTO's can start online fundraisers for new classroom technology in just a few mouse clicks, complete with credit card processing. Digital Wish also runs the School

Modernization Initiative, bringing one-computer-per-child programs to 28 local schools. Over 26,000 classroom technology wishes have been granted!

Learn about Digital Wish's School Modernization Initiative and the e-Vermont Project at: <http://schoolmodernizationinitiative.wordpress.com/>

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