



Seminole County

# TechFest XVI

2200 West Historic Goldsboro Blvd. Sanford, FL 32771 • 407-320-5750

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of IT

The Students  
of Tomorrow

MARCH 11, 2022

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	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
Session 1 8:00 - 8:40	Keynote Session Cafetorium	Workshop Computer Labs	Exhibit Hall Gym	Keynote Session Cafetorium
Session 2 8:45 – 9:25	Exhibit Hall Gym	Workshop Computer Labs	Workshop Computer Labs	Workshop Computer Labs
Session 3 9:30 – 10:10	Workshop Computer Labs	Keynote Session Cafetorium	Keynote Session Cafetorium	Exhibit Hall Gym
Session 4 10:15 – 10:55	Workshop Computer Labs	Exhibit Hall Gym	Workshop Computer Labs	Workshop Computer Labs

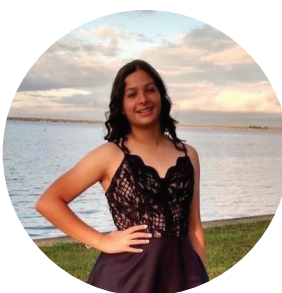
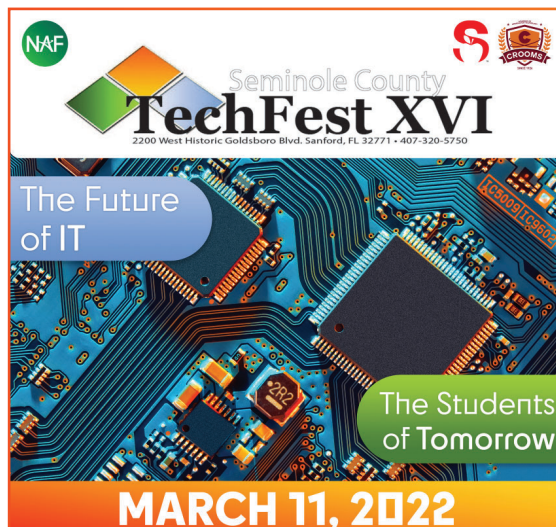
# Poster Contest

## 1<sup>st</sup> Place Nala Rivera

Marketing is everything when planning an event! Where does Crooms AoIT recruit for this service? Hiring for marketing service is very costly. Why go outside of our school when we are very fortunate to have talented students who have earned industry certifications? We felt that we could use TechFest to also showcase their talent so we created the TechFest Poster Contest.

## Program Designer Ariana Perez

I am very thankful for this opportunity to work on this program. It has been a great real-life experience as a graphic designer. In the future I am looking towards a career in digital design. Thanks to the courses here at Crooms I have been able to gather all the skills to design this program.



Thank you Ian Schneider for sponsoring the luncheon.

## A Special Thank You to:

The Almond Family  
Mellissa Slover-Athey

DACG

Kavaliro

Thank you Dental Practice Mechanics for printing this program.

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# Student Life



## CroomsCon: More Gaming, More Sponsors, More Charity!

CroomsCon is the annual, 12-hour charity gaming festival held at Crooms academy where all Florida students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to play and compete in support of a good cause. During this amazing one-day event, Crooms Academy is transformed into a video gaming convention hall. There are classrooms filled with Xbox, PlayStation, and Nintendo consoles, over 230 PC game stations, as well as thousands of dollars in door prizes, raffles, and tournament prizes! We also host Virtual Reality Rooms, a Retro Room, Tabletop and Card Game Rooms, a Dancing Room, a Jackbox Room, a Party Game Room, Rock Band on stage, and a Cosplay Contest! Over the past 10 years, CroomsCon guests have raised and donated over \$60,000 to the Children's Miracle Network! This year, CroomsCon has teamed up with amazing sponsors such as Full Sail and others to make the event bigger and better than ever!

Are you interested in helping? CroomsCon is always in need of more people to loan their gaming equipment as well as more chaperones to help the event run smoothly. Please check out our web site at [www.CroomsCon.org](http://www.CroomsCon.org) or email Mr. Donnan ([clayton\\_donnan@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:clayton_donnan@scps.k12.fl.us)) for more detailed information about this fantastic and unique event and our philanthropic history!

## CyberSecurity



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-  **Software-Defined Storage**  
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Enterprise-ready compliance to jumpstart readiness and accelerate transformation.

# Student Showcase



UDT & Lenovo are proud to  
Co-sponsor Tech Fest XVI!

UDT Sponsorship since 2009

Terry Chandler – UDT Account Mgr  
407-830-1029 tchandler@udtonline.com

## Crooms AoIT ALUMNI



Please support the Panther Walk Project.

Corporate Sponsor	\$400
Founders Society	\$250
Panther Donor	\$100

<https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/crooms.html>

## Business Professionals of America



## A Special Thanks to our Talented Students



### Student Ambassadors

The team in Black & White! Thanks for all the many hours of service you provided to Crooms. Representing the leaders of tomorrow, you continue to put Crooms on the map!

### Video Marketing Team



Landon Martin, Beth Lambert, Olivia Nicholson

**ASTRONICS**  
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for mission-critical systems

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# About Our School

## Why TechFest at Crooms AolT?

### As a Sponsor...

- Access to Seminole County Schools best and brightest young technical minds
- Access to the parents of our technically-gifted youth
- Opportunity to meet other businesses and technology vendors
- Opportunity to create new business at a unique showcase
- Opportunity to meet an innovative high school team

### As a Student...

- Opportunity to meet potential future employers and explore career options
- Opportunity to explore local educational options
- Opportunity to see some of the latest technology
- Opportunity to hear from the “experts” in various career fields

### As an Educational Institution...

- Access to gifted young technical minds close to post-secondary status
- Opportunity to evaluate students showcasing their abilities
- Opportunity to recruit future college students

### All proceeds fund...

- Career and college related programs/activities
- Job shadowing and internship opportunities
- Curriculum needs
- Scholarships to Crooms graduates – recipients will be presented at the Awards Ceremony in April



DISTINGUISHED ACADEMY



Industry Certifications



Work Site Tours



College Readiness



Business Partnerships



Teach In



Student Internships



Speakers

The last 15 years, TechFest has raised over

**\$339K**

*Thank you, stakeholders, for all your support!*



## Save the Date & Come Join Us

Our goal is to connect our business leaders with our students and teachers.

### Business Advisory Council Sessions

#### 2022-2022

- March 11, 2022 TechFest XVI
- May 27, 2022 Session #5
- June 21, 2022 Business Partners Recognition

#### 2022-2023

- July 29, 2022 Summer Retreat
- August 26, 2022 Session #1
- October 28, 2022 Session #2
- January 27, 2023 Session #3
- March 10, 2023 TechFest XVII
- May 26, 2023 Session #5



Work Site Tour-Orlando Sanford International Airport

## Get into IT!

### #RCIatCrooms

#### Teach In Day - November

- <http://tinyurl.com/Teach-In-Day>

#### Summer Internship Expo

- <http://tinyurl.com/Intern-Employer-Sign-Up>

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### JA Career Success Program

- <http://tinyurl.com/JA-Career-Success-Program>

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### JA Enhance Career Success

- <http://tinyurl.com/JA-Enhanced-Career-Success>

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Work Site Tour Opportunities

- <http://tinyurl.com/Job-Shadowing-Opportunities>

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### JA Personal Finance

- <http://tinyurl.com/Personal-Finance-Economics>

#### Senior Portfolio Project

- <http://tinyurl.com/Senior-Portfolio-Sign-Up>

## Get Involved!

### Business Advisory Council

- <http://tinyurl.com/Partner-In-Excellence>

### Alumni Invite

- <http://tinyurl.com/CroomsAlumni-Invite>

### Parents Invitation

- <http://tinyurl.com/Parent-Invitation>

# Schedule @ a Glance

## Session 1 8:00-8:40

Sponsor Exhibit Hall - Juniors			Workshops - Sopomores		Keynote Session - Seniors & Freshmen	
115	224	126	212	213	226	209
<b>AAA's Digital Future Through a Digital Membership Card</b> Eric Violland AAA	<b>Video Game Animation and Development</b> Simon Sherr Undead Labs	<b>STEM Careers From Porsche to Cummins</b> Max Steiner Universal Technical Institute	<b>A Look Into Software Startups</b> William Gorman Nucleus Security	<b>Be a Software Hero: Modern Software Techniques</b> Keith Garfield Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	<b>Six Simple Steps From Graduation to Finding YOUR Job!</b> Jerome Hess Orlando Health	<b>The Art of the Rollercoaster</b> Howard Mall Universal Creative

## Session 2 8:45-9:25

Sponsor Exhibit Hall - Freshmen				Workshops - Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors			
115	212	213	228	114	209	132	211
<b>AAA's Digital Future Through a Digital Membership Card</b> Eric Violland AAA	<b>A Look Into Software Startups</b> William Gorman Nucleus Security	<b>Be a Software Hero: Modern Software Techniques</b> Keith Garfield Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	<b>The Power to Build Wealth</b> Larry Sargent Jr. Sargent Associates Wealth Advisors	<b>Building a Digital Community</b> Laurel Ordonez Queenly Consulting	<b>The Art of the Rollercoaster</b> Howard Mall Universal Creative	<b>Space Rocks!</b> Ana-Paula Dovali Exolith Lab	<b>T.R.A.P. Resilience</b> Pernell Bush Key Consultion Solutions
224	126	226	227	129	214	223	124
<b>Video Game Animation and Development</b> Simon Sherr Undead Labs	<b>STEM Careers From Porsche to Cummins</b> Max Steiner Universal Technical Institute	<b>Six Simple Steps From Graduation to Finding YOUR Job!</b> Jerome. Hess Orlando Health	<b>Endless Possibilities Dream Board</b> Sheryl Mays Rise and Shine CF, Consulting and Coaching Firm	<b>Tech This. Tech That. What's The Point If You're Not Okay? Right Click, Copy &amp; Paste These 5 Steps To An Even Better You</b> Gerren Sprauve Clean Slate Janitorial Services	<b>How to be Brave</b> Jillian Morrisini Songbirds Music, Art, & Dance Center	<b>Your Financial Future</b> Brian White Positive Flow Foundation	<b>A Career Discovery &amp; Connection App for Our Region</b> Richard Sweat .decimal

## Session 3 9:30-10:10

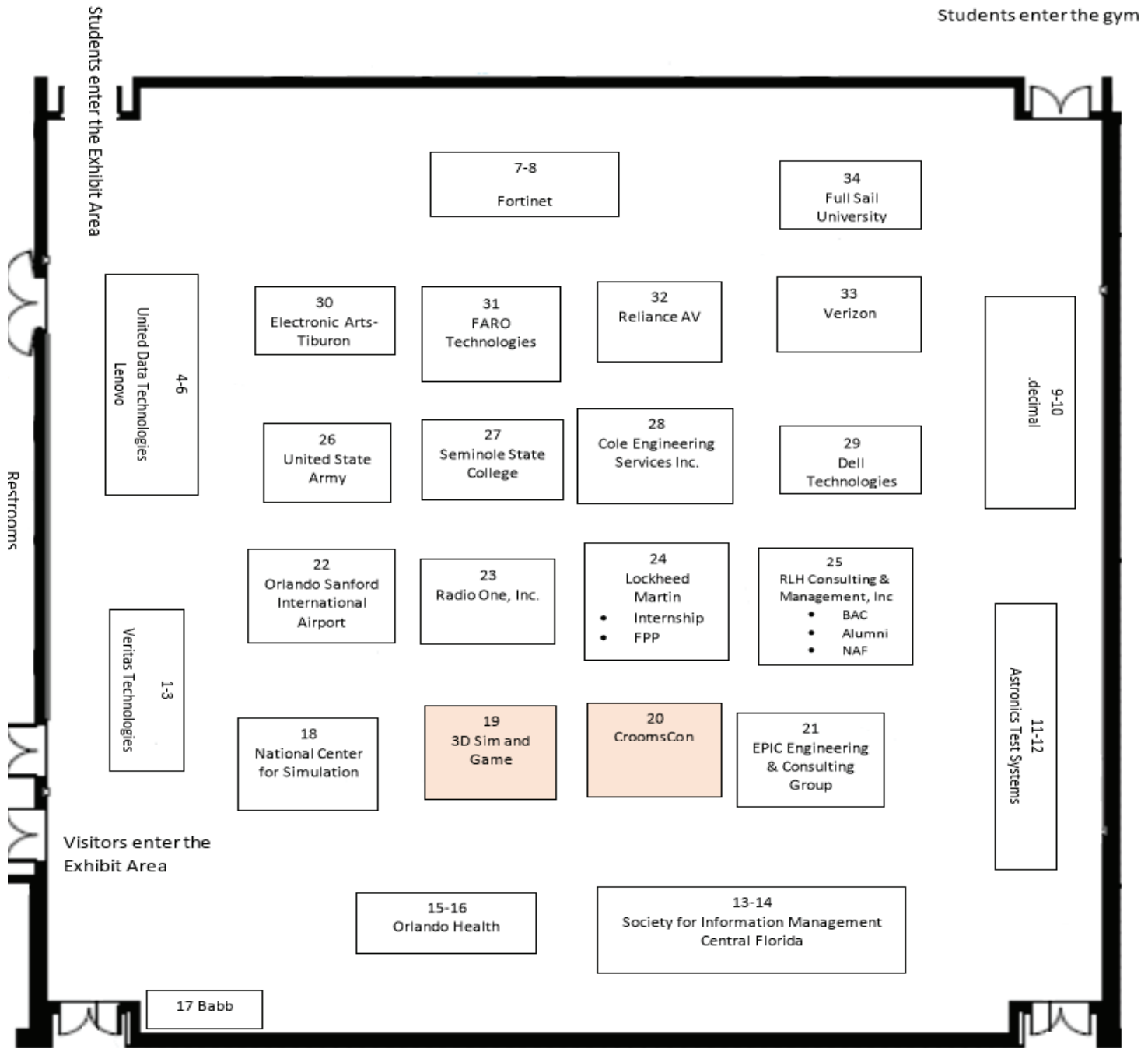
Sponsor Exhibit Hall - Seniors			Workshops - Freshmen		Keynote Session - Juniors & Sophomores	
211	226	224	126	124	212	213
<b>T.R.A.P. Resilience</b> Pernell Bush Key Consultion Solutions	<b>Six Simple Steps From Graduation to Finding YOUR Job!</b> Jerome. Hess Orlando Health	<b>Video Game Animation and Development</b> Simon Sherr Undead Labs	<b>STEM Careers From Porsche to Cummins</b> Max Steiner Universal Technical Institute	<b>3D &amp; Motion Graphics is Everywhere!</b> James Walker Full Sail University	<b>A Look Into Software Startups</b> William Gorman Nucleus Security	<b>Be a Software Hero: Modern Software Techniques</b> Keith Garfield Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

## Session 4 10:15-10:55

Sponsor Exhibit Hall - Sophomore				Workshops - Freshmen, Juniors & Seniors			
224	126	132	227	129	214	223	124
<b>Video Game Animation and Development</b> Simon Sherr Undead Labs	<b>STEM Careers From Porsche to Cummins</b> Max Steiner Universal Technical Institute	<b>Space Rocks!</b> Ana-Paula Dovali Exolith Lab	<b>Endless Possibilities Dream Board</b> Sheryl Mays Rise and Shine CF, Consulting and Coaching Firm	<b>Tech This. Tech That. What's The Point If You're Not Okay? Right Click, Copy &amp; Paste These 5 Steps To An Even Better You</b> Gerren Sprauve Clean Slate Janitorial Services	<b>Electronics For Audio and Music</b> Justin Morrisini Songbirds Music, Art, & Dance Center	<b>Your Financial Future</b> Brian White Positive Flow Foundation	<b>Get Psyched About Psychology</b> Marjorie Bostwick Giving Voices Project
212	115	213	228	226	114	209	204
<b>A Look Into Software Startups</b> William Gorman Nucleus Security	<b>How do Responders Find You in the Wilderness?</b> Lakshmi Sankaran Seminole County Fire Department	<b>Be a Software Hero: Modern Software Techniques</b> Keith Garfield Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	<b>The Power to Build Wealth</b> Larry Sargent Jr. Sargent Associates Wealth Advisors	<b>Six Simple Steps From Graduation to Finding YOUR Job!</b> Jerome. Hess Orlando Health	<b>Building a Digital Community</b> Laurel Ordonez Queenly Consulting	<b>The Art of the Rollercoaster</b> Howard Mall Universal Creative	<b>Creating a Bigger Picture</b> Erin Martin-Kamalzadeh Your Business Photographer



# Exhibit Area



Hospitality Area  
Sponsored by:  
Crooms PTSA

Luncheon Sponsored  
by:



8:00 – Juniors  
8:45 – Freshmen  
9:30 – Seniors  
10:15 – Sophomore

# Keynote Speaker



**HighKey**

## Don't Give Up

Aditya (AJ) Patel,

AJ Patel is a serial entrepreneur who thrives in finding opportunity not only in ideas but in mentoring people that can help grow those ideas. His visionary instincts and out-of-the-box thinking have led him on a successful journey of becoming a leader in both his business ventures and in his community.

As a sophomore in high school, AJ launched and sold his first web hosting business and used the proceeds to help pay for college. During his college years, AJ dabbled in internet companies, gaming, staffing agencies, and real estate, all of which taught him valuable lessons and the ultimate realization that he did not want to work for someone else.

By the time AJ graduated from college, he had saved up close to six figures from his internet ventures and was determined to continue down the entrepreneurial path. Unfortunately, he hit a few roadblocks and ended up working for a couple of years in corporate America as an accountant while actively looking for other opportunities. Throughout this time, he regularly reminded himself that taking risks and great achievements often involve challenges, even failures, yet are an opportunity to grow and learn – an ideology his parents instilled in him from an early age. In late 2013, after stumbling upon how to sell on Amazon, he took the risk of going

into debt and charged \$40K on his credit card to launch the nature-inspired beauty brand InstaNatural<sup>®</sup> which is now a top-ranking, e-commerce beauty brand.

Since then, AJ has founded five other CPG brands from the ground up three of which have each grown to a nine-figure enterprise value. His success record can be attributed to staying ahead of the curve and avoiding complacency through innovation and aggressive growth plans. With over a decade of operating experience and e-commerce expertise, AJ has developed an invaluable toolkit for growing and expanding the footprint of his brands. AJ credits much of his success to his dedicated employee group of motivated team players who thrive in a culture of hyper-growth.

HighKey, AJ's most recent brand venture, was born out of his sweet tooth and love of chocolate chip cookies. At the time, he was on a low-carb diet and was frustrated with the sweet options available on the market. AJ decided to solve the problem himself by tapping into online communities to see firsthand what consumers felt was missing in the low-carb space. He found that there were lots of health-conscious consumers who were also seeking better-for-you products that taste just as good as the original. So, he put his team to work and they were able to create a successful go-to-market strategy. Since the initial 2018 chocolate-chip cookie launch, HighKey has continued its upward growth trajectory and has moved into the retail space while staying committed to the better-for-you food trend and amazing tasting products.

AJ has been recognized both in his local community and nationally for his trade and business contributions. He was honored and humbled to have been named a 2019 Florida Finalist for Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of The Year, and the 2019 Gold Stevie<sup>®</sup> Award Winner for Entrepreneur of the Year.

# Internship Expo

Join the workforce and become future-ready  
Friday, April 8

Employer Sign Up

<http://tinyurl.com/Intern-Employer-SignUp>

Student Sign Up

Email: [millwaer@myscps.us](mailto:millwaer@myscps.us)

## 3D & Motion Graphics is Everywhere!

James Walker

*Full Sail University*

A quick look into the 3D motion graphics industry and how it is expanding into areas once not known for this type of media. With Covid lockdowns a lot of companies had to shift gears and welcome motion graphics as new tools for advertising and branding. I will show a demonstration of where these new areas thrived during covid 19.

## AAA's Digital Future Through a Digital Membership Card

Eric Violland

AAA

Why use a plastic card, when you can use your phone or watch? This is a question that AAA has recently started to explore in greater detail. Starbucks, Delta, Sam's Club, Hilton and many others have used the digital card for many years, digital payment continues to increase year over year and recently, the pandemic has taught us that touchless transactions are preferred. In this presentation, we'll explore how AAA is implementing the digital membership card experience and discuss how this card will help transform AAA's digital future along with helping the environment. Quick entry into a Rental Car, Hotel room, your house and more could all be realized with a future AAA Digital Membership Card – come and see for yourself.

## A Career Discovery & Connection App for Our Region

Richard Sweat

*.decimal*

A brief introduction of our mobile app, Career Passport. The app has four main functions: An algorithmic "Personality Evaluator", a resume builder, a map-based user interface locating all the jobs in our region which match your personality, and finally, a direct digital link to local employers. Beyond the introduction of Career Passport, a Q&A session will be held seeking your feedback directly with Career Passport's development team (who are also Crooms alumni!!!)

## A Look Into Software Startups

William Gorman

*Nucleus Security*

Will is a serial entrepreneur, startup founder, and technical advisor for early stage software companies. In this talk we'll explore lessons learned around starting new software companies, the excitement and difficulties of building a company from scratch, with a focus on the technical aspects within a software company.

## Be a Software Hero: Modern Software Techniques

Keith Garfield

*Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*

The best code cannot save a bad design. We often think of programming as sitting at the computer and typing late into the night (or early morning). There's much more to it. This talk will introduce some basic modern software design and coding techniques popular in industry today. We will talk about the need for good design, and how an understanding of requirements and testing can help answer the two basic questions: "Are we building the right thing?" and "Did we build the thing right?" An overview of the Agile Scrum software development technique is also provided to help you manage your projects.

## Building a Digital Community

Laurel Ordonez

*Queenly Consulting*

Long gone are the days of posting and ghosting! Learn how to engage over digital channels with intention and leverage a digital presence to create buzz around a business or brand to generate leads and drive revenue.

## Creating a Bigger Picture

Erin Martin-Kamalzadeh

*Your Business Photographer*

Utilizing tools such as photography and drone imagery can create endless opportunities.

## Electronics For Audio and Music

Justin Morrisini

*Songbirds Music, Art, & Dance Center*

Do you love music? Learn how to build your own analog circuits, repair musical electronics, fix your stuff, and apply your skills towards a fun new hobby, service, or business in the arts! Justin is a local musician, repair technician, luthier, and business owner.



**Join us for  
our Annual Sanford  
Riverwalk 5K**  
April 16, 2022

**Register and  
Become a Sponsor**  
[riverwalk5k.croomsweb.org](http://riverwalk5k.croomsweb.org)

# Workshops

## Endless Possibilities Dream Board

Sheryl Mays

*Rise and Shine CF, Consulting and Coaching*

We each have a vision for what we want in life. Is it possible, can it really happen? The answer is, yes. As you step into your impossibilities you must also give it power by envisioning it and speaking it into existence. This interactive session is about envisioning what you want and affirming your belief that it will happen.

Many people, including celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Beyoncé, Kellan Lutz, Steve Harvey and Cardi B, have acknowledged the positive contributions of their personal vision boards to their success.

If you're serious about reaching your dreams, a vision board is going to help you do so more quickly.

The best is yet to come. Step into your impossibilities by creating your personal dream board.

## Get Psyched About Psychology

Marjorie Bostwick

*Giving Voices Project*

In this workshop we will explore an area of psychology, known as I/O Psychology. This field of Industrial and Organizational Psychology, is the study of people in the workplace. This sub-specialty is fastly growing with those interested in psychology, business, research, and social science.

## How do Responders Find You in the Wilderness?

Lakshmi Sankaran

*Seminole County Fire Department*

Seminole County has about 80 miles of trails and 6000 acres of wilderness areas. In 2020 (an exceptional year), there were about 66,000 visitors to just 4 Wilderness

Areas (Black Bear, Econ, Chuluota and Geneva) that track visitor data. What if you were lost or needed help in these areas? See how technology is helping improve response time.

## How to be Brave

Jillian Morrisini

*TSongbirds Music, Art, & Dance Center*

Life is scary. Plans all change. Adulting is hard. Put on your catsuit.

## Six Simple Steps From Graduation to Finding YOUR Job!

Jerome Hess

*Orlando Health*

Six simple and sensible steps that have been used many times to move from zero to an ideal position. Whether its your first job or you're moving from one career to another, use these steps to secure a spot that will challenge you, you will find rewarding, and most importantly, you will enjoy.

## Space Rocks!

Ana-Paula Dovali

*Exolith Lab*

In this workshop, I will go through some important nonverbal and social skills that everyone should know in order to be a better communicator. These skills include listening, body language, eye contact, space, voice and so on. I will take the knowledge that I learned while studying Human Communication at the University of Central Florida and bring it to the classroom for these students. We communicate with someone daily whether that is in person or via a cell phone; knowing the do's and don'ts can help out tremendously.

## STEM Careers From Porsche to Cummins

Max Steiner

*Seminole County Public Schools*

This career workshop talks about cars, trucks, motorcycles and boats. From Ford to Porsche, BMW to Chevy, KTM to Cummins Diesel, what do they all have in common? STEM. Today's vehicles are computers on wheels. They stop and start themselves; they have night vision; they communicate with the driver via bluetooth and much more. Today, the professional technicians who launch a career working on these high-tech vehicles are in demand and well paid. Sign up and learn about STEM Careers in the transportation industry.

## T.R.A.P. Resilience

Pernell Bush

*Key Counseling Solutions*

Self reflection, mindfulness, and a powerful tool to aid you in your professional growth. A great start to your adult life.



## A Special Thank You

We would like to thank this group for fifteen years of support for TechFest and the Crooms Business Advisory Council.

Left to right - Mary Benton, RT Hillery, Cathy Alper, Dr. Griffin, Dr. Calderone

## Tech This. Tech That. What's The Point If You're Not Okay?

### Right Click, Copy & Paste These 5 Steps To An Even Better You

Gerren Sprauve

*Clean Slate Janitorial Services*

In this workshop you will learn 5 easy steps to help you go from feeling doubtful to feeling confident, becoming a healthy Rockstar in the world of Tech.

## The Art of the Rollercoaster

Howard Mall

*Universal Creative*

What does it take to engineer a new themed attraction at any of the Universal Parks throughout the world? Come learn about the art of engineering excitement.

## The Power to Build Wealth

Larry Sargent Jr.

*Sargent Associates Wealth Advisors*

This workshop will equip students on their journey to make, manage, and master money.

## Video Game Animation and Development

Simon Sherr

*Undead Labs*

Simon Sherr has been an animation director and directing animation technology in film FX and the games industry for 22 years working for EA, Epic Games, and is now a studio founder of Microsoft Undead Labs Orlando. He will be presenting the jobs, skills, and techniques involved in creating cutting edge video games.

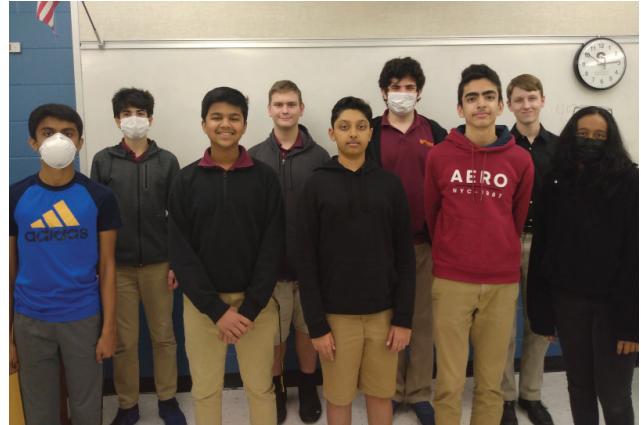
## Your Financial Future

Brian White

*Positive Flow Foundation*

Finances are a major piece of your future. Let's talk about them related to the lifestyle you want to live.

## TechFest Mobile App

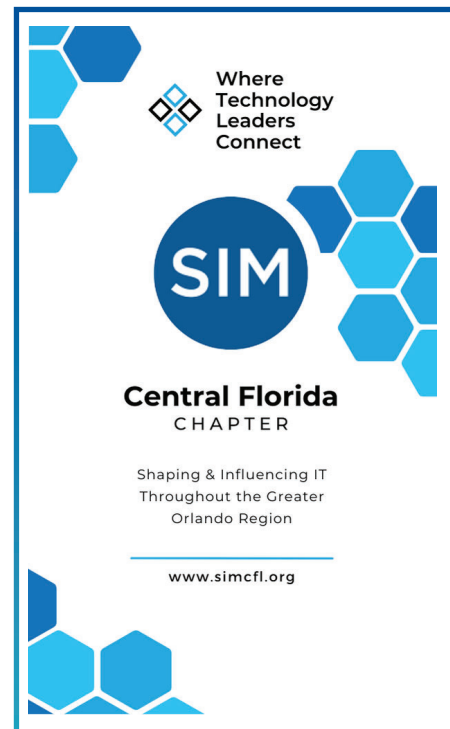


Back Row: (Left to Right) Deniz Istifli, Kyle Russell, Levent Istifli, Daniel Cook

Front Row: (Left to Right) Joseph Parayil, Arya Malekhajani, Mihir Ivaturi, Adam Khan, Aishitha Saravanan

Try the app version by sending, sharing, or adding to the home screen on your device. Please download the app to experience the conference.

Visit [www.croomstechfest.org](http://www.croomstechfest.org) to find TechFest XVI details. A special thanks to Mr. Jose Sanchez for leading the way on this project.



# Sponsors

## Junior Sponsor



## Sophomore Sponsors



## Freshman Sponsors





## Serita Beamon, *Superintendent*

Since its establishment in 1926, Crooms Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) has always symbolized innovation. By providing students in Seminole County Public Schools with the opportunity to immerse themselves in technology-centered learning, business & IT professionals, entrepreneurs, educators, and innovators are cultivated. Seminole County TechFest XVI is yet another demonstration of this longstanding history of innovation through unique student experiences.

One of just 96 National Academy Foundation (NAF) Academy schools in the United States to be designated as a distinguished academy, Crooms Academy students, staff, leadership, families, and the community work tirelessly to ensure programs and opportunities for students reflect current IT trends and meet the needs of Seminole County, Central Florida, and the country. Furthermore, students attending NAF Academy Schools benefit from workplace learning opportunities, mentorships with successful NAF alumni, NAF networking, scholarship opportunities, and preferential hiring by companies who recognize the importance of the NAFTrack Certification.

Relevant high-quality programming and meaningful opportunities for students contribute to Crooms AOIT having a 100% graduation rate, being named as a 2022 Magnet Schools of America School of Excellence, and being listed among U.S. News & World Reports' 2021 Best High Schools in America.

Aside from the accolades received by the school and the opportunities they afford to students, in 2020-2021, students at Crooms earned professional credentials in Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite including Photoshop, Flash, Premiere Pro, Illustrator, and InDesign,

Cisco Certified Network Associate, CompTIA A+, and Microsoft Technology Associate--Windows Operating System Fundamentals. These credentials serve as evidence of the future ready skills that graduates of Crooms AOIT take with them to college and the workplace.

Crooms AOIT and Seminole State College continue to maintain a strong partnership, providing dual enrollment (college credit) opportunities beginning as early as the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. This year marks the sixth cohort of Crooms AOIT students completing their Associate in Arts degree from Seminole State College while still in high school. This program saves families thousands of dollars in tuition and fees and allows students to begin pursuing their passions at an early age. In addition to dual enrollment, Crooms AOIT continues to offer a rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) Program that provides students with the opportunity to take college level courses and earn college credit through the College Board AP Testing Program.

The school board and I are so appreciative of Crooms principal, Dr. Brandon Hanshaw, the leadership, teachers, staff, parents, and community. The relentless pursuit of relevant learning for all students is evidenced by their unwavering desire to meet the needs of all students and provide opportunities to interact with industry professionals through events like TechFest XVI. Through the cultivation of strong business partnerships, Crooms Academy of Information Technology represents what can be accomplished when individuals and organizations come together to achieve a shared vision – a vision of student, school, and community success.



## Kate Crockett, *Fundraising Committee Chair*

On behalf of the Crooms Academy Business Advisory Council, thank you for your participation and generous sponsorships in support of Crooms TechFest XIV. This event is a success year over year because of amazing sponsors and speakers like you and your company. It is always encouraging to see a group, as diverse as this, come together for such a worthy cause. This year we reached our goal of raising over \$42,000! Because of the hard work from the BAC, staff, faculty, ambassadors, speakers and sponsors, we will be able to provide many scholarships,

internships and curriculum support. Perhaps most exciting, we are all a part of preparing these students for success. As the fundraising chair for TechFest this year, I want to thank the entire Crooms TechFest team for your enthusiasm and support. Next year we will continue our journey together to reach the Crooms 100! We hope to see everyone next year, again thank you for your dedication and commitment; you are truly making a difference in providing "The Future of IT: The Students of Tomorrow".



## Brandon Hanshaw, *Principal*

I would like to personally welcome members of the Crooms Academy of Information Technology Business Advisory Council, Central Florida leaders in business and industry, representatives from post-secondary institutions, community members, and Crooms AOIT Alumni to our annual TechFest Event.

Talent in computer science and information technology continues to be in high demand and the technology curriculum at Crooms Academy of Information Technology enables students to specialize in networking, programming, gaming, modeling and simulation, computer repair, digital media, and cyber security to address these industry needs.

Crooms Academy of Information Technology continues to deliver a high quality education for our students which includes a strong core academic curriculum and mastery learning in a range of information technology program strands. The TechFest student conference is a critical element of our program as the event directly connects our students to business professionals and higher learning institutions which strengthens the workforce readiness pipeline and the partnership between industry and education.

Your investment in Tech Fest is an investment in our students. I would like to thank you for your partnership and continued support of Crooms Academy of Information Technology.

# CROOMS



ACADEMY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## RECHARGE, CONNECT, INVEST

### Opportunities for Business Partners

- The Business Advisory Council • Mentoring Program • Industry Coaches
- Field Trips • Guest Speakers • Business Sponsored Workshops • Internship Opportunities • Job Shadowing • Sponsorships • TechFest Events • Sanford Riverwalk 5K



### Join the Crooms 100 Team

Our goal is to **Recharge** our commitment to building future leaders, **Connect** with our business community, and **Invest** in our students.

**#RClatCrooms**

Join us for



Seminole County  
**TechFest**

The Future of IT, The Students of Tomorrow

become involved at  
[TechFest.CroomsWeb.org](http://TechFest.CroomsWeb.org)

### Become a Business Partner

Sign up @  
[croomsbac.org/partners-in-excellence/](http://croomsbac.org/partners-in-excellence/)

Contact Cathy Alper  
Business to School Liaison  
[Cathy\\_Alper@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:Cathy_Alper@scps.k12.fl.us)  
407-320-5749

NAF



Visit us at:  
[Croomsbac.org](http://Croomsbac.org)

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