

***Task 1.5***

When I began my sophomore year, I had no idea what I wanted to do. I'd hoped to become a physical therapist or do something related to sports medicine, but after taking Medical Terminology and Introduction to Health Science, I felt that wasn't my path anymore. I struggled to figure out what I wanted to do. While schools were closed during Covid, I found SheTech's Virtual Summit. The virtual summit reminded me why I loved math and technology. So I applied for the Student Board after the Virtual Summit ended. Joining the Student Board showed me career fields I didn't know existed. It also showed me I could do anything if I had a genuine love for it. The program connected me with a community that shared the same love of technology. It allowed me to imagine all the possibilities that could occur if I stepped out of my comfort zone and tried something new. Taking the initiative to start the first SheTech club at my school definitely took me out of my comfort zone. SheTech has given me the confidence to seek more leadership opportunities. I applied for an NCWIT award and earned an Honorable Mention for Northern Utah. I also became the General Sterling Scholar for my school. After high school, I plan on going to the University of Utah to major in Mathematics with a Statistics emphasis and minor in Computer Science. SheTech had given me the confidence and skills needed to accomplish each of these feats.

--Jordyn, Grantsville

My freshman year was a time for me to find myself. I was in high school and a world of possibilities opened up to me. I was eager to try new things. So when Juab's Student Board Representative came to my English class and presented Explorer Day, I was eager to try. Technology has always been an interest of mine. Explorer Day was a chance to take that further. I was awed by the number of girls at the expo center, the different companies presented to me, and the classes I took. Before explorer day, fields like cybersecurity were vague concepts to me. After explorer day I was able to explain how different types of hacking were like different Disney villains! This started my participation in SheTech. Since then SheTech has inspired me to explore possibilities in technology. Before SheTech, I didn't know what being in computer science involved. SheTech showed me by introducing me to mentors in all kinds of fields. There are women just like me at places like FatFish Media who program events and enjoy creativity as they do. I have had the opportunity to meet them and people like them through Explorer Day, SheTech's internship, and other SheTech events. The women I meet through SheTech teach me that I don't need to give up the parts of me that love writing, gaming, or art. Technology can combine all my interests. This realization encourages me to pursue a future career in computer science.

--Sariah, Juab

I'll be honest when I first heard about SheTech Explorer Day I only signed up to get a school excused absence and miss my science test. I thought it would be cool, but I wasn't very excited to go. I fell in love with the program so I registered for the virtual explorer days and summer internship the following years. When the applications for the student board opened I applied for that too. The more involved with SheTech I got the more I loved it. I was able to listen to so many incredible women who taught me to reach outside my comfort zone and that I could do anything. Even though we couldn't meet in person, all of the incredible people that help with SheTech still gave us great opportunities to learn new things. I remember filming a video for the virtual explorer day last year where we built and launched rockets. After we filmed everything we needed, a young boy asked me to help him launch one of the rockets and tell him how it works. Being honest I was not a hundred percent sure how it worked either, but we learned how to get it to work together. I learned something else that day as well. I learned that I love helping kids learn. This fall I will attend SUU and study to be an elementary school teacher so that I can teach kids all of the amazing things science, technology, engineering, and math have to offer.

--Leslie, Box Elder

My first introduction to STEM occurred in eighth grade when I won a roller coaster designing contest. This competition sparked my curiosity for problem-solving and introduced me to STEM programs, including SheTech. I attended my first Explorer Day in-person as a freshman and immediately fell in love with the program. My sophomore year, I attended as many SheTech events as I could find. Through these events, I met empowering women who were incredibly passionate about their careers, and I wanted the same for myself. These women helped me discover my interests and provided me with resources that furthered my discovery. At the end of my sophomore year, I applied to become a student board member and got chosen to represent my school. As a board member, I mentor other students who wish to pursue technology pathways. My passion for problem-solving encourages me to make a difference in the world. I have found that technology fields give me a platform to improve others' lives and create opportunities for people who lack resources. SheTech allowed me to see the abundance of problems that need to be solved and taught me to use creativity and logical reasoning to innovate potential solutions to these worldwide issues. I hope to provide others with the opportunities for success that I have enjoyed. Throughout my SheTech journey, I have made friends, gotten access to STEM resources, been introduced to career opportunities, and had a ton of fun. I would not be where I am today without SheTech.

--Sara, Farmington

When my neighbor first told me about SheTech and SheTech explorer day, I thought it was too good to be true. Going there for the first time in 2019 was an eye opener. I didn't realize how much we use technology in our daily lives, and how technology is in everything. One of the classes I took was Technology in Cosmetology and it blew me away at how much you actually do have to use tech for things like that. It was exciting and inspiring. After that explorer day, I was hungry for more. I gushed about it to all my friends and told them 'You have to come with me next year' and 'It was crazy fun'. They were all intrigued and told me they would sign up for the one next year. Unfortunately, the next years were 2020 and 2021, which were online, so they didn't get to experience the in person explorer day, but we still had fun watching them together and learning more. They are coming this year for their first in person one! I applied to be on the student board in 2019, the day after explorer day. I was so excited, and it was like a door had been opened up. showing me all the possibilities and things to learn in technology. I have loved working with the board and hope that SheTech will grow and change more lives like it did mine!

--Lillie, Lehi

People say that life is a journey, and I really believe that to be true. Luckily for all of us on the student board, SheTech has made the journey through highschool extremely fun and eye opening. My name is Madeline Remkes and I have been on the SheTech Student board for the last 3 years. I went to the SheTech explorer day back in 2019, and it was the most eye opening field trip that I have ever been on! I walked into the MACU expo center, and was immediately greeted with smiles and I could truly feel the excitement emanating from the convention. After going into the tech room, I learned a lot about the things going on in Utah and especially the technology related opportunities I would want to be involved in. Our group even won the tech challenge, which is a competition to see who can use technology the best way while solving real world problems. We have had opportunities to learn about marketing, media, and other technology in more ways than I can name! And even though I won't be going into a technology field as my future career, watching women be encouraged in technology and all work spaces has really empowered me to want to pursue my dream as a social worker. As a first generational college student, I have had a lot of doubt about being able to pursue a future career on my own. But SheTech has taught me that being a woman is empowering, and the work force really needs us in the future.

--Madeline, Payson

Being lucky enough to have been involved in SheTech, though all of my highschool career, I have learned a lot. SheTech has given me so many opportunities to learn more about the tech space. It taught me about careers that I didn't even know existed. I have not yet pinpointed the exact path that I want to take, but SheTech has opened up to me all the possible pathways that I could pursue. Taking the next step into college, I plan to start on the path to become a computer engineer, but I know as I learn more I will be able to refine my goals. Along with the things I have learned about the tech space, I have also met so many amazing people. These mentors are women that I will be able to reach out and learn from as I grow in my professional career. SheTech has given me many opportunities to get out of my comfort zone, they encouraged me to have conversations with people who I don't feel as comfortable around, speak in front of people, and work in a team. I have been able to grow in my application to communicate with others in a professional way. Before, SheTech I struggled asking questions and talking to people I believed were smarter than me. Now I am able to ask questions and learn without feeling judged. I am grateful for all these opportunities and am blessed to have been apart of SheTech for so long.

--Emma, Pleasant Grove

After four years in SheTech, I not only envision myself pursuing tech, but thriving alongside peers of all genders and backgrounds. SheTech has given me invaluable career development opportunities such as creating and fostering a LinkedIn profile, attending networking events, and exploring different fields within tech. During my time as a SheTech summer intern, I met many women in companies such as Goldman Sachs and Big Fish Media, who expanded my awareness of the myriad of management and engineering roles available to me. It was through these experiences of discussing and exploring technology that I now aim to pursue computer science professionally. Using the networking skills I learned from SheTech, I gained access to a multitude of opportunities early into my high school career. In fact, I was able to win the Congressional App Challenge with a team of girls I met through the club. Most recently, I cited SheTech and my subsequent STEM experiences in my college applications and was admitted early to the Harvard Class of 2026 as an Engineering and Applied Sciences student. Presently, SheTech has allowed me to give back to other girls in my community as a student board member. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of SheTech as a participant and leader, and hope to continue my involvement in the organization well after graduation.

--Fifi, West High

In 7th grade, the trajectory of my life changed when I met a female Biomedical Engineer who helped create a device that saved my six-year-old cousin Benny's life. At that moment, I knew that Biomedical Engineering was the path for me. Since then, my passion for STEM has flourished which inspired me to create the website and social media campaign called Bright Futures Begin With STEM. It was during my research that I discovered SheTech and their mission to expose girls to the role models and opportunities that are available right here in Utah. After learning about SheTech, I couldn't wait to get involved and meet other girls who shared my passions and interests. This year will be my first in-person Explorer Day and I am excited to see girls from all over the state come to explore the abundant opportunities in technology. Following my participation in the 2020 and 2021 Virtual Summit events, I knew that I had a desire to serve on the Student Board to help further the mission of SheTech. The opportunity to be a member of the Student Board has allowed me to serve alongside women who support me and help me along my path to achieving my ultimate dream. SheTech has provided me with a support system and a place where I belong. It is because of SheTech, and the confidence it helped me build, that my dream will soon become a reality when I begin my studies in Biomedical Engineering this fall.

--Grace, Corner Canyon

My SheTech Story began in 2020 during my sophomore year in high school. I had just quit competitive dancing, and that crushed me. I felt so lost and was struggling in school and in life. One day in February I went and met with my counselor to go over my first semester of high school. Throughout the meeting she kept pushing me to find something I can be passionate about. She repeated many times about the SheTech program. So, I applied for explorer day. Soon after that covid hit and we all became stuck inside. I got a job, so I had at least somewhere to go and something productive to do. Now between March and summer I don't really remember much. It was such a hard time for me, and I didn't want to remember most of it. But that ended when I made the SheTech student board, and I was able to do my first internship program. From my first internship I was hooked. I felt smart, respected, and most importantly greater than I was before. Now I didn't solve world hunger or anything, but I learned that my best self comes from being valued. SheTech gave me value. Since then, I have become a CNA and I have decided to pursue my lifelong career in the medical field. My dreams have grown, and I know that they are possible to achieve through the stories and lessons learned throughout my years in SheTech. So there is one take away that came from my journey in SheTech, it was my value and love for myself and the future of powerful women. Which I am, A powerful woman.

--Caitlyn, NUAMES

My 9th grade Career and College Readiness teacher was very enthusiastic about SheTech and about getting her students registered. This was my first introduction to SheTech, and I was curious to find out what her excitement was all about. I was so glad I went to Explorer Day because I found so many opportunities that have benefitted me. During Explorer Day, I was able to talk to a representative from the University of Utah. I was interested in Engineering, so it was really amazing to see a girl in the engineering program at the University. She told me about their HighGear summer camp, which is a camp for girls who want to go into Engineering. I have gone for the past two years. It has helped me decide I want to go into Mechanical Engineering. Because of SheTech, I have decided to go to the University of Utah and have been accepted into their Engineering college for this fall. Right after I got home from Explorer Day, I applied to be a part of the Student Board. I have been on the board and involved with SheTech ever since. I am so grateful to have been on the Student Board because I have met amazing girls my age who are also interested in STEM. SheTech has given me so many opportunities that have set me up for my future. It has also shown me that I can succeed as a woman a STEM field.

--Ginny, Itineris

While looking for opportunities to learn more about STEM, I found the SheTech Explorer Day convention in 9th grade. Walking into the huge meeting hall, I was in awe of all the girls coming to learn about technology. We were introduced to different companies and attended workshops run by Adobe, Comcast, Dell, and more. It was an amazing experience. After my 9th grade year I continued to participate in SheTech Explorer Day as it went virtual. The summer after my 11th grade year I had the opportunity to participate in the SheTech Internship. This opened my eyes to all different types of tech jobs. Tech has a massive impact on everything we do. In the internship I was shown how tech helps run a massive corporation, a stunning musical performance, a live show, promoting products, or teaching machines to learn. The applications of technology are limitless. I continued my journey through She Tech by becoming the Student Board Member for my school. I was able to start a SheTech Club to introduce girls to technology and what SheTech has to offer. Not only did this expand my knowledge but helped me to introduce the world of tech to other girls around me. SheTech has helped me pursue my dream of majoring in computer science. Technology rules today's world and if women don't have a voice in the creation of technology we will have no contribution or say in the future. I hope to encourage more women to go into technology and change the stereotypical view of a computer programmer.

--Mary, Murray

I first went to SheTech was when I was in eighth grade. I fell in love with the collaborative environment where I felt that those around me heard my voice. I immediately knew I wanted to be a part of the SheTech program. Since 9th grade, I have been a SheTech Student Board Member. Through the student board, I have had the opportunity to thrive in a community of like-minded women. I have been inspired by their perseverance, endurance, failure, and success stories. SheTech allowed me to be surrounded by women already in their careers and who are trailblazers. Networking with women still in college to CEOs and professionals in their field has significantly impacted me. I have learned to never give up on any goal and reach for the moon. I also learned that though the road to success may get rocky, I have a community of strong women behind me to support me. I am honored to have the opportunity to give back to a community that has given me so much by working hard in my neighborhood to inspire the next generation of women in STEM to succeed. I have represented SheTech in my school, community, news, and the Pattern's "Silicon Slopes Pushing Back on Stereotypes: Women in Tech" magazine article. Because of SheTech, I have grown my confidence in the STEM field, further explored my career field as a software developer, and been inspired to apply to MIT, Harvard, Stanford, and other IV league colleges.

--Kayle, Woods Cross

Covid brought an unexpected shutdown that made us quickly adapt to technology. My friend dragged me with her to sign up for the 2020 SheTech explorer day. I remember listening to some girls talk about how much fun it was. I was looking forward to attending because it would be the first actual fun thing I would be doing in a long time. Unexpectedly Explorer Day was canceled in person and had to be rescheduled to be virtually, which was a bummer. The 2020 explorer day was the first time I had interacted with SheTech and I loved it so much even though it was held through a screen, that I decided to join the SheTech club at my school. Prior to joining SheTech I had no idea of what I was interested in or what I wanted to be when I grew up. Being a First-Generation Latina student there's not much of a push for me to continue going to college after high school and pursue a good career. SheTech has pushed me forward and has made me realize that I have big dreams in the STEM field, and that I am certainly able to accomplish them. SheTech has been such a great, supportive, and helpful community to me. Throughout SheTech I have learned that there are so many opportunities and careers for me out in the world. The amazing women I have met through SheTech have been very inspiring in motivating me to continue studying after high school to become an important woman leader.

--Jasmin, West High

When I was younger, I never would have thought that I would go into computers. In fact, I was biased against technology. But after discovering cybersecurity in school, I became curious. I went to a summer girl's camp at BYU, training young girls in cybersecurity. That school year, I took my first computer related class. A few years later, under the promptings of my Linux teacher, Mrs. Yocom, I joined shetech and other organizations for women in technology, and have been competing in a national cybersecurity competition with amazing teammates, who helped me win state for the third season in a row this year, placing 118 in the nation out of thousands of teams. I was shy at first when I started taking those classes. I thought, 'how could I possibly measure up?' And when cyberdefense competitions started, I was the only female on my team my first year doing it. I felt unqualified. But my female teacher and all the strong women I have met and talked to during this journey have inspired me to set worthwhile and ambitious goals, and the stories they have shared in shetech events have helped me to see that not only is women technology an achievable goal, but it is the right place for me. These women are an inspiration, and have greatly influenced how confident and smart I feel when I walk into a room. My current ambition in technology is to advocate for new learning and accessibility tools all over the internet.

--Alexiah, American Fork

I first heard about the SheTech program from a friend. At the time, the program had sounded like a fun way to explore the world of technology, therefore I decided to attend during my freshman year of high school. However, after attending the event my perspective of the program changed drastically due to the amazing women and creations I had been introduced to at the event. My first experience at SheTech led me to attend multiple cybersecurity camps and SheTech internships in hopes of later entering a career within the technology field. By expanding my experience and knowledge of technology I was able to gain useful skills of organization, dedication and looking outside of the box, as well as skills related to technology. As a sophomore, I was able to join the SheTech student board. This position helped me gain confidence in my abilities as a woman and a leader. I have participated in the SheTech program as a student board member and intern for 3 years now and it has had such an impact on my life. SheTech has given me useful life skills as well as various opportunities to learn and grow from other women in technology. SheTech has also impacted my life by helping me reach my goal of becoming a sterling scholar. My experience on the SheTech student board and internship gave me insight on leadership, business, and marketing which helped me become the sterling scholar for business and marketing, and make it to the semifinals.

--Brooke, Freedom Prep Academy