

2025 COMMUNITY SKILLS CONNECT

D.C. Entrepreneurs AI Workshop

**CENTRI
TECH**
FOUNDATION





AI & DIGITAL ADVANCEMENT

On January 25, 2025, the Centri Tech Foundation, together with The Black UpStart and Martha's Table, hosted the second **AI for Entrepreneurs Workshop** in Washington, D.C.

Building on the success of our first workshop in May 2024 and in response to community demand, we joined forces with our partners once again to offer a Black History Month-themed workshop for 20 local aspiring entrepreneurs. Participants, both new and returning, received full scholarships to attend the one-day, AI training. Students ranging in age from 17 to 65+ received hands-on instruction and support to design and produce their own t-shirts, custom journals/planners, and shea butter products.

The Centri Tech Foundation is grateful to Verizon for its generous support. These workshops were made possible through the Verizon Community Enhancement Award. Verizon's partnership has been instrumental in our efforts to expand access to digital skills training for communities in Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Philadelphia.

**The Centri Tech Foundation partnered with
local and national groups to sponsor the
DC Entrepreneurs Workshop: Black History
Month Edition**



verizon✓

black
UPSTART

Martha's  **Table**
EDUCATION • FOOD • OPPORTUNITY

Computers4People


DIGITUNITY®
DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY NETWORK

**CENTRI
TECH_**
FOUNDATION

20 participants received full scholarships for tuition and AI software. Every student was awarded a laptop to take home.





20 ENTREPRENEURS
8 HOURS
3 PRODUCTS



**DISNEY INSPIRED
T-SHIRTS**



JOURNALS



**SHEA BUTTER
PRODUCTS**



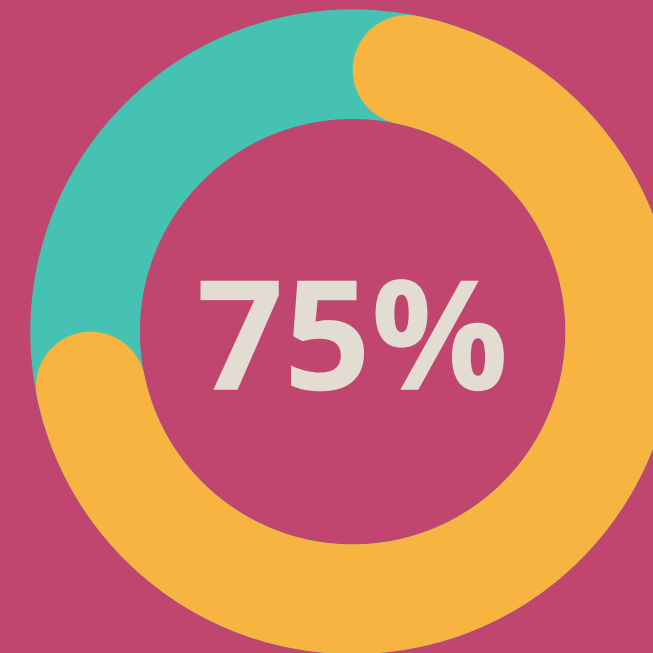
FROM INSPIRATION TO ACTION: PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES



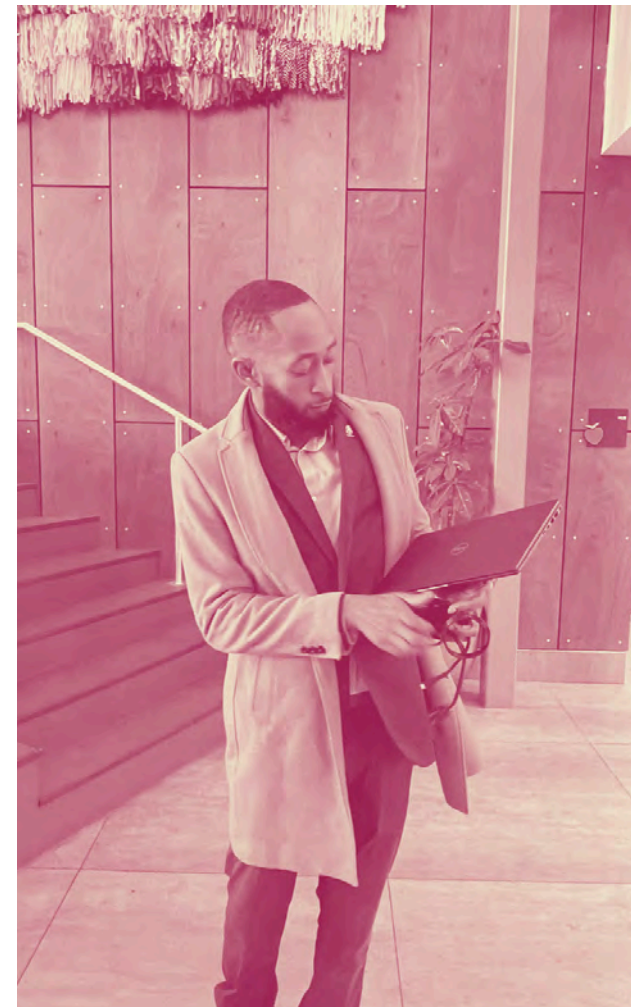
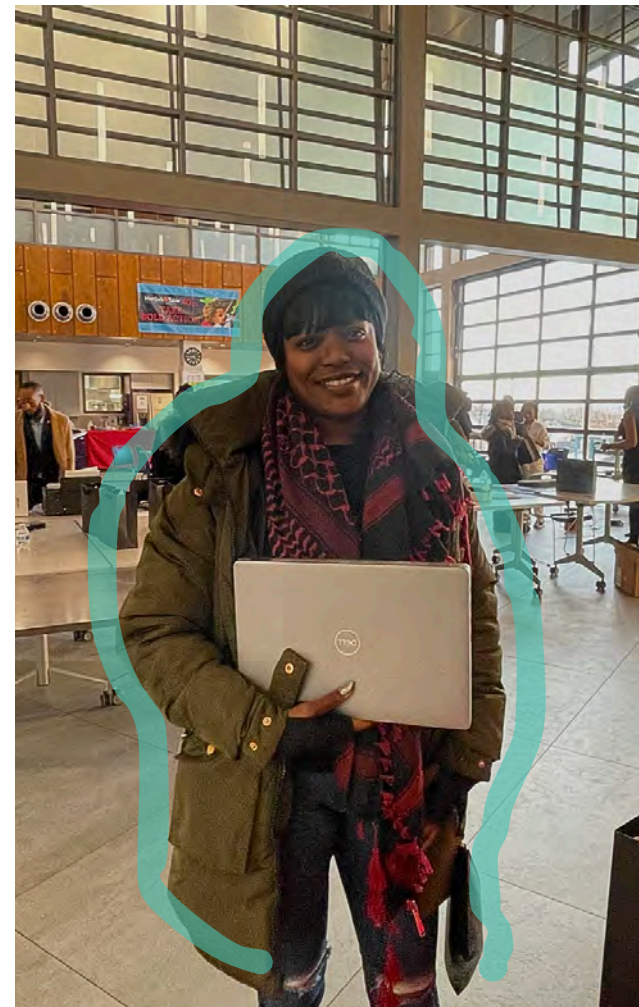
**FIRST TIME
USING AI**



**CONSIDERING
ENROLLING IN OTHER
COURSES/PURSuing
CERTIFICATION**



**PLAN TO
START A
BUSINESS**



Thank you Computers4People

Computers 4 People generously donated 15 refurbished laptop devices to Martha's Table. These were gifted to workshop participants to support their product creation and continued AI learning journeys.



PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

"The staff that facilitates the event is exceptional; they go out of their way to create a sense of belonging, making us feel like we're part of a family."

"We all enjoyed it, the variety of perspectives and the TA[s] were great and super helpful."

"The energy! This year was even better than last year and I loved last year. Kezia is high energy and knowledgeable - key components in leading a successful workshop with varying audience demographics. The team is so kind! I loved it all!"

"Among the three wonderful activities we participated in, my favorite was creating the planner and the t-shirt—it brought me so much joy!"

"The atmosphere is truly welcoming, making everyone feel at ease as we collaborate and learn together."

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Focus on Aspirations vs. Skills Gaps**
- **Tangible products = Greater impact**
- **AI accelerates digital skills adoption**
- **Use AI to design, test, iterate & scale business ideas**
- **Training for alumni boosts engagement and furthers digital upskilling**





**CENTRI
TECH_**
FOUNDATION

Contact Us:
<https://www.centritechfdn.org>