

**Case Study:
Celebrating a
Decade of Impact
Tech901 and
CompTIA's Partnership
Transforming IT
Careers in Memphis**



Tech901: Empowering Memphis Through IT Training and Economic Growth

Founded in 2015, Tech901 is a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing Memphis' IT sector by bridging the gap between unfilled IT jobs and a motivated workforce. With Memphis being a city of untapped potential, Tech901 has taken on the challenge of creating a sustainable pipeline of skilled IT professionals. Their mission is to provide affordable, targeted training that empowers individuals to secure meaningful careers in technology while simultaneously driving economic growth in the region.

Tech901's programs are designed to address the unique challenges faced by the Memphis community, including financial barriers, lack of access to quality training, and the need for industry-recognized certifications. Over the past decade, Tech901 has become a cornerstone of Memphis' tech ecosystem, transforming lives and strengthening the local economy.

Closing the IT Skills Gap: Tech901's Mission to Empower Memphis

When Tech901 was founded, Memphis faced a significant skills gap in the IT sector. Local businesses struggled to find qualified candidates to fill open positions, while many residents lacked the resources or opportunities to pursue careers in technology. The challenges Tech901 sought to address included:

- **Bridging the Skills Gap:** Memphis businesses needed a workforce equipped with the technical skills and certifications required to meet modern IT demands.
- **Overcoming Barriers to Entry:** Many potential students faced obstacles such as high training costs, lack of access to resources, and test anxiety.
- **Adapting to Industry Evolution:** As the IT industry shifted from on-premise systems to cloud-based technologies, training programs needed to evolve to stay relevant.
- **Providing Hands-On Experience:** Students required practical, real-world experience to complement their theoretical knowledge and prepare them for the workforce.

Tech901 recognized that addressing these challenges would require a collaborative approach, and they sought a partner who could provide the tools, resources, and expertise needed to achieve their mission.





Tech901 and CompTIA: A Partnership Transforming Memphis' IT Workforce

In 2015, Tech901 partnered with CompTIA to create a comprehensive training program tailored to the needs of Memphis' IT sector. This partnership has been instrumental in Tech901's success, equipping students with the skills, certifications, and confidence needed to thrive in the tech industry.

Key components of the solution include:

- **Pre-Testing for Aptitude:** Tech901 evaluates applicants to ensure they have the potential to succeed in IT careers, identifying motivated individuals ready to invest in their future.
- **Affordable Training:** Thanks to community support and local scholarships, Tech901 offers subsidized courses, with students paying as little as \$100 to \$250 for training programs that would typically cost thousands of dollars.
- **Hands-On Labs and Real-World Experience:** Tech901's courses emphasize practical, hands-on learning, ensuring students gain the skills needed to excel in the workplace.
- **Industry-Recognized Certifications:** Tech901's curriculum is aligned with CompTIA certifications such as A+, Security+, and the newly introduced Tech+. These certifications are widely recognized by employers and serve as a gateway to higher-paying IT roles.
- **Comprehensive Career Services:** Tech901 provides resume writing assistance, interview coaching, networking opportunities, and soft-skills training to prepare students for the

Why CompTIA?

"CompTIA has been an invaluable partner in our mission to transform lives through IT education. Their certifications and resources have enabled us to provide our students with the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the tech industry. Together, we've not only helped individuals achieve their career goals but also strengthened the Memphis economy."

– Aaron, Executive Director, Tech901

Results and Impact: A Decade of Transformation

Over the past decade, Tech901 and CompTIA's partnership has delivered transformative results for both students and the Memphis community:

- **2,400 Students Trained:** Across 123 class sessions, Tech901 has trained 2,400 students, equipping them with the skills needed to succeed in IT careers.
- **1,200 CompTIA Certifications Earned:** Students have earned 1,200 industry-recognized CompTIA certifications, including A+, Security+, and Tech+, opening doors to higher-paying roles.
- **500 IT Careers Launched:** Outcome surveys document nearly 500 graduates launching IT careers in industries such as logistics, healthcare, education, and IT support.
- **Increased Earnings:** Certified alumni earn approximately \$10,000 more annually than their uncertified peers, demonstrating the value of skills-based training and industry-recognized credentials.
- **Expanded Curriculum:** Tech901 has introduced new courses like Tech+, which serves as an entry point for students new to IT, and Data+, which prepares students for careers in data-driven fields.
- **Improved Certification Pass Rates:** The introduction of **CertMaster Perform** has helped students build a stronger foundation, leading to higher pass rates for Security+ and greater confidence in their skills.
- **Community Impact:** Tech901 has become a trusted resource for Memphis residents seeking to improve their lives through education and career advancement. Alumni often return as mentors, creating a cycle of success and community support.
- **Support for Remote Work Opportunities:** With the rise of remote work, Tech901 graduates have found opportunities beyond Memphis, contributing to industries nationwide while staying rooted in their community.



Looking Ahead: Expanding the Impact

As Tech901 celebrates its 10-year anniversary, the organization is looking to the future with ambitious plans to expand its impact:

- **Reaching New Communities:** Tech901 aims to extend its programs to reach more Memphians with asynchronous learning options, helping ignite a passion for tech careers.
- **Introducing Advanced Courses:** New offerings like Data+ and Tech+ will provide students with the skills needed to excel in emerging fields such as data analytics and coding.
- **Strengthening Partnerships:** Tech901 is exploring opportunities to deepen its collaboration with CompTIA, including tiered pricing options and enhanced data tracking to measure program outcomes.
- **Building Employer Demand:** By working closely with local and national employers, Tech901 plans to increase demand for certifications like Data+, ensuring graduates have access to high-quality job opportunities.

Conclusion

Tech901 and CompTIA's partnership demonstrates the transformative power of IT education and workforce development. By equipping individuals with the skills and certifications needed to succeed in the tech industry, they are not only changing lives but also driving economic growth in Memphis and beyond.

For organizations looking to make a similar impact, CompTIA offers a wide range of certifications and training solutions designed to meet the demands of today's IT landscape.

Are you ready to transform your community through IT education and workforce development?

Contact CompTIA today and visit us at [Comptia.org](https://www.comptia.org) to learn more about our certification and training programs.