



January 30, 2012

# LAST MONDAYS!

*A Newsletter Special Edition*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! 2012!!!

### Digital Connectors Program

The Digital Literacy Training for youth started January 10, 2012. ArtsTech is offering this training as part of the Digital Connectors movement promoted by One Economy. Digital Connectors is a national movement of young people dedicated to improving themselves and their communities through leadership development and digital literacy skills.

Students build their skill base and learn the Digital Connectors program content in weekly classes at ArtsTech and virtually via the One Economy Institute. The Digital Connectors curriculum has 6 modules:

- Leadership Development
- Media Literacy
- Financial Literacy and Community Service
- Community Mapping
- Information Technology
- Final Project

Each student who completes this training and 56 hours of community service as the final project will receive a \$500 stipend and a new laptop.



*Alex & Jonathan leading the class.*

### Creative Connections needs mentors!

The Creative Connections mentoring project, an innovative approach to serving at-risk urban youth with disabilities, creates and integrates a formal mentoring program into an existing arts-based community program.

Research has shown that art therapy and artists as mentors have positive impacts for at-risk youth both with and without disabilities. The overall goal of this project is to develop, implement, and sustain an evidence-based mentoring program for urban at-risk youth with disabilities. As a result, participating youth will have increased access to mentors and supports that are designed to reduce the influence of risk factors (e.g. lack of commitment to school) and increase protective factors (e.g. access to support networks). Outcomes include improved academic performance and a decrease in the number of youth who offend/re-offend.

This project will provide an intensive intervention for 50 youth with disabilities. Partners include ArtsTech (lead organization, experienced in serving urban at-risk youth) and the University of Missouri Kansas City Institute for Human Development (experienced in serving youth with disabilities) in collaboration with a community cross-system consortium. Any person interested in learning more about being a mentor should call Paula Davis, 816-461-0201 or [pdavis@artstech-kc.org](mailto:pdavis@artstech-kc.org).

### Special Thanks

Sending a special thank you to LICO Steel and Lee McNutt for the generous donation of computers!



*In Memory of our friend & former co-worker  
Deborah Jones*

We accept:



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