

Through federally funded research and development centers and public-private partnerships, The MITRE Corporation tackles the nation's biggest problems from cybersecurity to aviation safety. An extension of our mission is to cultivate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) talent—young people who will solve the next generation of large-scale challenges.



MITRE and Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School Partnership

Building the Next Generation of STEM Leaders. MITRE's long-standing partnership with Notre Dame Cristo Rey (NDCR) High School's Corporate Work-Study Program is one way MITRE is helping prepare today's students in the Commonwealth to meet the employment demands in IT, defense, robotics, advanced manufacturing, and clean energy. That's 40 percent of jobs in the state, according to the Massachusetts' Plan for Excellence in STEM Education.

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The Lawrence, Mass.-based NDCR is a not-for-profit college preparatory high school serving economically disadvantaged students who might not otherwise be on track for post-secondary education. Their Corporate Work Study Program offers students on-the-job experience at local companies—and helps them earn much of the cost of their high school education.

MITRE became a member of the work-study program in 2008. Since then, 41 students have dedicated five days per month during the academic year to work at our Bedford headquarters. On a given day at MITRE, a NDCR intern might code using the open source programming language called Python—or create a model to test the impact of more drones entering the commercial airspace.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017, MITRE employees gave 22,397 volunteer hours, or 934 days, to four key areas:

- Promoting STEM education. More than 35% of employee volunteering is STEM-focused.
- Fostering inclusion and diversity.
- Supporting veterans and community health.
- Leaving a light environmental footprint and helping neighbors in need.

LEARN MORE

mitre.org/about/corporate-social-responsibility

When a student sees how STEM impacts the everyday world, a rich technical career path opens up. The Cristo Rey program is a great example of helping students reach their potential and ensuring that the technical expertise we need in Massachusetts and across the country will be at-the-ready.

PETE SHERLOCK

MITRE senior vice president and chief operating officer

"I grew tremendously during my time at MITRE," says Maya Concepcion, a NDCR graduate and former MITRE intern. "I learned how to code and created three-dimensional objects for a virtual world. Because I needed to get things done, I learned good time management. And I gained more confidence."

Another student, Johvanni Perez, learned higher level math from his MITRE mentor, Les Servi. He went on to take an AP calculus course.

"Our students—all students—need people who believe in them," says NDCR President Sister Maryalyce Gilfeather, SNDdeN, PhD. "One of the main things I have found is that the MITRE supervisors believe our students can do so much more than they themselves think they can. That belief is transformative! It expands a student's vision of himself or herself and what they're capable of achieving."

Working side-by-side with our engineers and conducting research in our labs not only builds confidence, it develops an appreciation for the many applications of STEM.

MITRE benefits from the fresh perspectives, enthusiasm, and innovative ideas the students bring. Some students work multiple years during their high school career. MITRE has hosted 74 work-study internship placements. Some interns work consecutive years. Ten NDCR interns will join us for the 2018-19 school year.

"It is more than just a partnership," says Sr. Maryalyce. "This relationship is an investment in one child at a time. MITRE takes a genuine interest in nurturing each student's skills. Supervisors and mentors often show up to graduation to support their student workers. Some corporations volunteer for a day. MITRE takes their involvement with our students to a much deeper level."

The NDCR partnership is part of MITRE's larger corporate social responsibility initiative. We support employee community service efforts through Civic Time—up to 40 hours of paid time each year to dedicate to volunteering in areas aligned with our mission.