The Pierce Innovation Academy brings together activities of Pierce related to innovation, STEM, entrepreneurship. If your organization is interested in providing critical philanthropic support that will empower young people to help build a better future, consider becoming a member of the Pierce Innovation Society.
Pierce innovation Academy Projects
• Support the FabLab

A cutting-edge technology lab in which students use digital fabrication and design thinking to build, test and optimize prototypes based on their original ideas

Overview: Students are part of a technological and creative learning revolution, where trial and error and even failure help teach resilience, determination, and eventually success. The Fab Lab is fully equipped with 3D printers, a laser cutter, a 3D scanner, a vinyl cutter, a CNC machine and an electronics workbench for experimentation with creative electronics. The Pierce Fab Lab is also a member of the international Fab Lab Network.

Mission: Through an experiential, interdisciplinary approach, in which theory becomes practice, the Fab Lab aims to cultivate critical skills, such as analytical thinking, collaboration, empathy and complex problem-solving.

• Support the MakerSpace

Collaborative workspace empowers making, learning, exploring and sharing

Overview: The MakerSpace enables students to implement their ideas and take them from conception to reality. Young people use the design process, develop their practical knowledge and skills by using basic hand tools, power tools and other traditional equipment to create working prototypes and final products.

Mission: To empower young people to test their boundaries, experiment with alternatives, collaborate and investigate as they are deeply engaged in science, engineering and tinkering. This space will help them generate new and improved ideas based on their experiences.
• Support the Academy of Engineering

Design and fabrication of solar-powered hybrid cars

Overview: This after-school academy at Pierce enables Lyceum students to work in teams, under strict deadlines, to design and build solar-powered hybrid cars which are evaluated for design and tested on the track.

Mission: To help students acquire project management, communication, analytical and technical skills. Students who participate learn the importance of trust, teamwork, collaboration, and perseverance as they navigate delivering a working car from design, fabrication to performance.

• Support the Junior Achievement Program

Students create business plans through this internationally recognized educational program

Overview: Students prepare and submit their own business plan for implementing all stages of modern business (product design, production, marketing and promotion, and sales). During the process, they need to demonstrate how they plan on generating wealth and how they intend to manage it effectively, create jobs that make their communities more robust, and apply entrepreneurial thinking in the workplace. Students put these lessons into action through specific challenges and activities.

Mission: Active participation in this program contributes to the development of the necessary social, entrepreneurial, organizational, and interpersonal skills for the young people involved. The most important element of this program is that it prepares young people for the real world.
• Support the Robotics Club

**Construction and programming of robotic structures to solve problems**

**Overview:** In this after-school club, students construct and program robotic structures to solve problems. The club participates every year in robotics competitions: the Pan-Hellenic Competition and the World Robot Olympiad (WRO). Students design and build their robots from the ground up and must program the robots for the autonomous part of the competitions as well as the user-controlled portions.

**Mission:** To teach students to analyze, design, evaluate, and fabricate through experimentation and testing. Students use several soft and hard skills as well as creativity and problem-solving to build a bot that can complete obstacles.

• Support the University of Delaware Diamond Challenge

**The sole pitch site in Greece for this international entrepreneurial competition**

**Overview:** Since 2018, Pierce has been collaborating with the University of Delaware’s Horn Entrepreneurship Program. The Diamond Challenge is a unique three-day conference providing students, educators, and supporters worldwide the opportunity to develop new skills while inspiring their entrepreneurial spirit. Participants learn from world-class speakers, entrepreneurs, and mentors and forge lifelong connections.

**Mission:** In the Diamond Challenge, high school students cultivate entrepreneurship concepts, develop skillsets such as pitching, iterating, problem-solving, and using technology to leverage ideas.
Leadership Academies
• Support the Racecar Challenge

Reinforcing students’ knowledge and abilities in the field of programming, robotics and technology.

Overview: The competition Racecar Challenge, will be done in collaboration with the nonprofit organizations Mathisi Initiative and Junior Achievement - Greece. It is based on the middle-school race car program miniRACECAR designed and offered by the Beaver Works Summer Institute at the MIT. The course guides students through the programming and assembling of a racecar which will be able to autonomously run through a track with a certain set of obstacles.

Mission: The course aims to help students develop their knowledge and skills in programming, robotics and technology, linking theory to practice and giving them an opportunity to work in teams regardless of prior experience.

• Support the Growth Mindset program

Using entrepreneurship as the basic scenario to monitor and enhance students’ soft skills

Overview: This after-school group is part of the global educational program “Entrepreneurship for Kids” and lasts eight months. Its main goal is the introduction of young people to the basic principles of entrepreneurship. Through puzzles, games, imagination and mystery, they develop a way of thinking necessary for their future careers. The activities are structured to lead to the implementation of an idea in such a way that it refers to the respective mode of operation of business startups.

Mission: The basic concept of the program is that intelligence evolves through hard work and practice. Implementing appropriate strategies with open-minded thinking leads to individual and intellectual development in each sector through a process of failures, incentives, and redefinition. The Growth Mindset philosophy is a way of life that leads to acquiring practical knowledge and hands-on experiences.

• Support the Pierce Leadership Academies

Experiential three-week summer programs in leadership for international and local students, 13-17 years old

Overview: Participants develop the confidence and skills required to make decisions as effective leaders. Students attend courses, workshops, simulations, debates, and field trip adventures during the three-week program. This is much more than just a summer program. Participants investigate areas of interest and become exposed to new subjects and academic disciplines to understand the workings of leadership better. They are inspired to challenge themselves in meaningful ways, leading to self-discovery, personal growth, and responsible decision-making.

Mission: Each academy’s goal is to stimulate intellectual curiosity, expose each participant to fundamental concepts and pathways to leadership, and cultivate necessary skills for an aspiring leader, regardless of their sphere of endeavor.
• Support the building of a Precious Plastic Lab

A new lab specialized in processing plastic waste and turning it into useful products

**Overview:** Precious Plastic project was developed by Dave Hakkens in the Netherlands to reduce plastic waste. It consists of a series of equipment that turns plastic waste into small flakes, ready to be turned into new things by the other machines. Adding a stronger sustainability element to the existing one, Pierce’s innovation and entrepreneurial programs are a priority for the school.

**Mission:** Precious Plastic is a combination of people, machines, platforms and knowledge with the goal of creating an alternative global recycling system.

• Support the Pierce Model United Nations Club

A simulation of the work of the United Nations that provides students the opportunity to speak on issues of importance in the volatile and troubling world we live in

**Overview:** During the year, Pierce students participate in the Pierce MUN Club, preparing students the unique opportunity to attend a number of global MUN conferences and host the ACGMUN conference, an annual three-day conference in English, open to secondary school students (ages 14-18).

**Mission:** Participating students increase their knowledge of diplomacy, develop critical analysis, practice public speaking and negotiation, and develop friendships beyond their community.
Schools today need to keep pace with rapid societal and economic changes, prepare their students for jobs that do not yet exist, technologies that are not yet invented and address problems that have not yet arisen. Pierce is in the frontline of innovation while equipping students with skills crucial for their future work, conviviality and citizenship.

Membership levels and benefits

**Why join?**
- Make a lasting impact on the success of young people
- Attend a unique annual engagement opportunity with the ACG President
- Be formally recognized for your support
- Get an invitation to exclusive participatory activities at Pierce
Change Maker
(5,000 - 9,999 €)

- Printed Signage on campus 15-inch gear
- ACG, Pierce website recognition
- Member of the President’s Circle
- Annual Pierce Leadership Meeting Participation
- Pierce innovation Academy Annual event
- President’s Annual Report and Honor Roll of Donors
All donations will be directed to the Pierce Innovation initiatives. Donors may select which specific initiative they support from the Fab Lab, MakerSpace, Engineering Academy, JA, Growth Mindset, Robotics team options.
The partnership between the Pierce Innovation Academy and SAS Tech / SW Group is mutually beneficial. It enables the communication and dissemination of current knowledge in the field of unmanned means, starting from the aerodynamic-aeronautical sector, to an organized and efficient educational organization that cares deeply about the services it provides to its students.

Mike Spiridakos
CEO and President, SAS Tech/SW Group

Entrepreneurship and Innovation will be key elements of the potential future career paths of our kids. I am very excited that we have the chance to actively support Pierce College on its Innovation Academy program which is enhancing students mindsets towards those important elements.

Christos Misailidis
CEO IWG & Founder The Jone
Are you interested?

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