TDJF Principles

Practicality and pragmatism

This means the skills program is affordable and can generally be completed in a year's time. Additionally, the pathway is individually tailored for each student based on their background and goals.

Curated and applied curriculum

This skills program's curriculum revolves around curation of the best existing content, not the local recreation of content. Students will complete a real-world project prior to exiting the skills program. Upon exiting, the students will have evidence (such as certifications) of their capability to use certain common and industry-leading tools.

Economic development

The skills program seeks to supply data engineering talent to meet the needs of Tennessee's labor market, with the belief that the skills program's reputation will stimulate additional demand for such talent in Tennessee. Some students will explore opportunities outside Tennessee, but we will invite them to always participate in and celebrate Tennessee's future economic success.

Intellectual breadth and creativity

This will be realized by admitting students with a range of backgrounds, understanding the business and economic environment in which the technology is applied, learning to apply multiple frames to problems, and by developing soft skills in addition to technical skills.

Launching careers and endeavors

The skills program's soft skills development includes developing job search skills. The skills program will actively develop partnerships with other organizations to both create job opportunities for students and to provide guidance to students wishing to starting businesses.

Flexible and adaptable curriculum

All students will acquire foundational skills and proceed along a specialized pathway of their choosing. Module offerings will be updated to ensure that students are prepared to meet the needs of the labor market.

Learning through service

Students will strengthen their technical and organizational skills through mandatory work assignments in the skills program, while reducing programming costs and creating a model that can be cost-effectively scaled.