



INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
ACADEMY

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

EMPOWER TODAY'S STUDENT FOR TOMORROW'S FUTURE





A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Welcome to ITA's 2025–2026 Annual Report. This year marks an important moment for the Information Technology Academy. After launching our Renewal Initiative in 2024–2025, this past year has been about putting that vision into practice—listening closely to students and families, refining our model, and strengthening the experiences that matter most.

Across all three sites—Madison, Oneida, and Lac du Flambeau—we focused on depth over breadth. We streamlined our calendar, piloted and refined a hybrid learning model, and redesigned summer programming to be more accessible, focused, and impactful. These changes were grounded in a simple question: How do we best support students as whole while preparing them for college and careers in technology? The results are encouraging. Our students continue to graduate at exceptional rates, enroll in college immediately after high school, and pursue pathways in STEM and technology. Just as importantly, they report feeling supported, connected, and confident in their futures.

None of this work happens in isolation. I am deeply grateful to our staff, alumni, university partners, donors, and families who believe in ITA and walk alongside our students every step of the way. Your commitment fuels opportunity and transforms lives. Thank you for being part of the ITA journey.

Brenda Vazquez Carranza

BRENDA VAZQUEZ CARRANZA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

OUR FOUNDATION

VISION

Empower today's student for tomorrow's future

MISSION

Through a triple focus on technology exploration, leadership development, and college preparation, ITA offers high school students the skills, resources, and support needed to become strong candidates for admission to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

CORE VALUES

At ITA, we love our students and believe in their ability to achieve their goals and their dreams. Our work together is guided by these core values:



We have serious fun together.



We engage in the art of collaboration.



We inspire a love for learning.



We lift up diverse voices.



We foster a supportive community.



ITA is proud to provide our program at no cost to students, ensuring equitable access to all eligible participants across Madison, Lac du Flambeau, and Oneida communities.



CLASS OF 2026 SUCCESS!

The Class of 2026 continued ITA's tradition of strong postsecondary outcomes, with every senior pursuing education beyond high school.



37

ITA seniors completed
the ITA program



100%

of ITA seniors graduated
from high school

100% of seniors



are college-bound



65%

were accepted to
UW-Madison



62%

of seniors enrolled at
UW Madison

54% of graduates



are pursuing a STEM or
tech-related majors

Class of 2026 profile: 65% first-generation • 60% low-income • 35% first-generation and low-income



OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Student survey responses highlight growth in connection, confidence, technology skills, and college readiness.

BELONGING

99% students reported feeling welcomed in ITA

58% reported a strong connection to the ITA community

GROWTH

78% reported significant growth in technology skills

64% reported growth in leadership skills

COLLEGE READINESS

78% feel more prepared for college

71% applied ITA learning outside the program

ENGAGEMENT

87% rated ITA's in-person experiences as highly valuable

90% rated their overall ITA experience positively

STUDENT VOICE

“College felt like a big step and it is, but ITA has made me feel much more in control of the whole college situation, which makes it seem much less stressful.”

— Angel Flores Torres, ITA Madison, Class of 2027

BY THE NUMBERS

From recruitment and retention to community support and student engagement, these numbers reflect the collective impact of ITA during the 2025–2026 academic year.

Student Reach

- 148 applications received across 3 sites (an increase from last year):
 - Madison: 79
 - Oneida: 22
 - Lac du Flambeau: 47

Enrollment & Retention

160 students enrolled at the beginning of the year

- 96% retention rate
- 4% attrition rate
- All 6 withdrawals were voluntary, with students citing evolving interests, health considerations, or participation in other academic opportunities.

Program Participation

Students engaged in a variety of experiences designed to build community, explore careers, and connect learning to real-world opportunities.

- 6 seminars were offered at each site
- 2 multi-site conferences connected students across communities
- Students participated in 4 immersive UW–Madison experiences
- Each site offered optional enrichment activities beyond the required curriculum:
 - 46% attended at least one optional event
 - 20% participated in two or more events

Student Demographics

- 154 students served across cohorts 2026–2029
 - 60% first-generation
 - 62% from low-income households
 - 46% first-generation AND low-income

Tutoring

Tutoring and academic support provided students with additional opportunities to strengthen academic skills and receive individualized guidance.

- 25% of students participated in virtual tutoring at least once
- 16% attended tutoring multiple times throughout the year
- The most common requests focused on mathematics support, followed by ITA coursework and technology-related questions

Fundraising & Community Support

Community investment continues to expand opportunities for ITA students.

- \$5,770 raised during Day of the Badger
 - Includes a \$2,100 matching gift from six leadership supporters
 - 43 gifts were received
- \$631 raised during Brat Fest with the support of 10 volunteers



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the year, ITA scholars engaged in a wide range of hands-on learning experiences designed to foster academic growth, community connection, and exposure to higher education and career pathways. Here are a few standout moments from 2025-2026:



Tour of LdF Youth Center

ITA Lac du Flambeau students had the opportunity to connect with their local community at the Youth Center, strengthening community ties while learning about resources and opportunities available in a familiar and welcoming space.

John Deere Field Trip

ITA Madison students explored real-world technology careers and educational pathways beyond the classroom through a visit to John Deere's facilities. This experience was made possible through ITA's partnership with PEOPLE and John Deere.



Oneida Nation Higher Education Career Fair

ITA Oneida students explored postsecondary education options and career pathways, strengthening the connection between academic planning, career exploration, and their long-term goals. This experience was made possible through partnerships with Oneida Nation Higher Education and local schools.

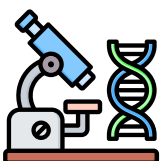
Fall Conference

Brought together 10th and 11th grade students from all three ITA sites for an engaging experience at UW-Madison. Students strengthened their technical and leadership skills, explored technology career pathways, and built community while experiencing campus life and collaborating with peers.



BioTech Discovery Day

ITA Madison students explored biotechnology and health technology through hands-on laboratory activities, including DNA exploration, genetic transformation, and sterile lab techniques. Students also toured Epic Systems to learn about careers in health technology and experience how innovation is transforming healthcare.



VOICES OF ITA



"When I first joined ITA, I thought it was just going to be busy work. Now I realize how everything we do helps. Even activities like Koala and Friends helped me think about my Senior Capstone this upcoming year and have brought me one step closer to becoming a Badger. ITA has really prepared me for college."

- Osawa Durant, ITA LDF Class 2028

"It has been an amazing 3 years being a part of our ITA team and family. The memories I have made are many, but they all have a common theme of fun, learning, and being supported. We all work so hard for our in-person camps and seminars, and a great part of my job is watching students get to know each other, become more confident, and take risks to learn more about themselves. It is a true honor working with such amazing students, families, staff, and our supportive communities of Oneida, Lac Du Flambeau, and Madison."

- SoHappy, ITA staff



"ITA helped prepare me for college, introduced me to inspiring mentors and peers, and gave me the confidence to pursue my goals. Coming back to work for the ITA has been one of the most rewarding experiences because I now have the opportunity to contribute to the ITA community and see students discover their own potential. The relationships I built through the program have lasted beyond high school, and the community truly feels like family. ITA is more than a pre-college program, it's a lifelong support system that continues to open doors and create meaningful connections."

- Audriana Angeles, ITA alumni Class of 2022 & Student Staff

"ITA has been such an important chapter in our family's journey. Each of our children had a unique experience, yet all were shaped in powerful ways by the care, opportunities, and support they received. ITA has not just been a precollege program for our children—it has been a community that has supported, challenged, and believed in them."

- Linda Aroonsavath, ITA Parent





WHAT CHANGED

In 2025–2026, ITA moved from planning to practice. Building on insights gathered through our Renewal Initiative, we implemented key changes designed to strengthen consistency, flexibility, and student engagement.

WHAT WE IMPLEMENTED

- A new academic-year structure that balances consistent engagement with reflection and application.
- Shorter, more focused summer experiences tailored to each cohort.
- A hybrid learning model that blends in-person programming with online coursework.
- Improved systems for communication, data tracking, and student support.

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Students consistently identified relationships, seminars, field trips, and community-building experiences as the most meaningful parts of ITA.
- Across all three sites, students reported that in-person programming helps them stay engaged, build confidence, and better understand coursework.
- Students are applying skills gained through ITA—including technology, communication, organization, and college-readiness skills—in school, at home, and in their communities.
- 71% reported applying something learned through ITA outside the program.

WHAT WE ARE STILL WORKING ON

As we continue to refine ITA's model, we remain focused on:

- Deepening engagement and connection across all three sites.
- Expanding hands-on and in-person learning opportunities.
- Enhancing online learning experiences through clearer guidance and support.
- Increasing opportunities for students to collaborate, create, and build community.

These refinements are shaping a more sustainable, student-centered model, one that meets students where they are while maintaining high expectations.



WITH GRATITUDE

At ITA, our mission is driven by a collective effort of individuals who believe in the power of education, technology, and opportunity.

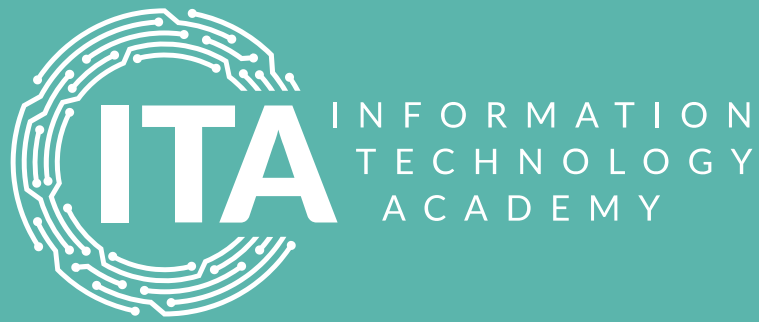
To our current and past sponsors and donors: Your generosity fuels more than just programs—it opens doors. Thank you for investing in our vision and in the potential of every ITA scholar.

To our staff: Behind every successful student moment is a team of deeply committed staff members. Thank you for your creativity, care, and unwavering belief in ITA.

To our students and families: You are the reason we do this work. To our scholars, thank you for showing up, stepping up, and pushing yourselves to grow. To our families, thank you for trusting us to walk alongside your students and for the encouragement you provide every step of the way.

Together, we are shaping futures. Thank you for being part of the ITA journey.





KEEP IN TOUCH!

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