

IBM Launches P-TECH in New Zealand to Address Digital Skills Shortage

The Warehouse Group and Manukau Institute of Technology collaborate with IBM to prepare young New Zealanders for technology-related careers

Auckland - 28 Mar 2019: IBM (NYSE: [IBM](#)) is bringing the P-TECH (“Pathways in Technology”) education and workforce preparedness model to New Zealand, announcing today that Aorere College and Manurewa High School in Auckland will begin pilot programmes in term three of this year. Manukau Institute of Technology and The Warehouse Group are also supporting the collaboration to develop work-ready skills among young New Zealanders, joining P-TECH as tertiary partner and industry partner respectively.

In the P-TECH model, schools, tertiary education organisations and companies partner, enabling students to earn relevant tertiary qualifications that connect to competitive entry-level careers, as well as develop the academic, technical and professional skills -- such as critical thinking, problem solving and communication -- required to compete in the 21st century economy.

Established in 2011 by IBM in partnership with educators, there are expected to be more than 200 schools involved in P-TECH worldwide by the end of this year, with more than 600 industry partners. P-TECH is a response to the growing recognition that for many emerging, unfilled technology-related roles, sometimes called "new collar" positions, flexible and relevant credentials and skills are paramount.

In New Zealand P-TECH students will be supported to complete a five year structured programme at high school and in tertiary education. Students will complete each level of NCEA and make progress towards a tertiary qualification while at school. Upon completing the programme, students will have both their NCEA qualifications and a New Zealand Diploma aligned to industry needs. Participating students will be ‘first in line’ for entry-level jobs with industry partners including IBM and The Warehouse.

Ellen MacGregor-Reid, the Ministry of Education Early Learning and Student Achievement Deputy Secretary says “The P-TECH model highlights how secondary and tertiary education and industry can partner together to support young people on a pathway. I look forward to seeing the progress of the initiative in New Zealand.”

The first full year of P-TECH will begin at the two Auckland high schools in February 2020 for approximately 30-40 Year 11 students. The programme is expected to grow as more employers, tertiary institutes and schools join.

Industry partners will play a vital role by giving students a range of workplace experiences including mentoring, worksite visits and paid internships, and by contributing to a ‘skills mapping’ process to ensure skills being developed are aligned with ICT jobs that are in short supply such as software engineers, web developers and security specialists. A co-ordinator funded by industry ensures that industry and education partners are tightly synchronised.

Michelle Anderson, Chief Digital Officer at The Warehouse Group says “We have an established intern programme and we’re looking forward to expanding this with P-TECH. This is a powerful partnership that combines high school, tertiary and industry working together to ensure work readiness and develop in-demand credentials and skills that employers need now and in the future.”

New Zealand and many other countries are experiencing a shortage of ICT and STEM skills as a result of

industries being reshaped by data science, AI, cloud computing and cybersecurity. A report by the Digital Skills Forum in December 2017 stated that New Zealand has a significant and growing digital skills shortage, primarily due to the increasing speed and scale of demand for technology-related skills.

“At IBM we’re acutely aware of the urgent need for technical skills and P-TECH is very much in line with the needs of New Zealand employers,” says Mike Smith, Managing Director, IBM New Zealand. “We are grateful for the support of the Ministry of Education and extremely excited to be partnering with Aorere College and Manurewa High School, Manukau Institute of Technology and The Warehouse Group to bring P-TECH to life. This partnership will create new learning pathways directly to new collar jobs and help students better understand the connection between their coursework, field experiences and the workplace.”

IBM started the P-TECH model in Brooklyn, New York, in collaboration with the education and business communities. Early results in the U.S. show P-TECH graduation rates five times the on-time community college graduation rate for low-income students. For more information, please visit ptech.org

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