

Intel® Learn: Creativity and Innovation at the YDRCs



Walking into one of the three Youth Development Resource Centers (YDRCs) in the West Bank, odds are that the ICT lab will be filled with

focused and enthusiastic students. One reason behind the popularity and success of the ICT programs at the YDRCs is Education Development Center's (EDC) continued partnership with Intel. EDC implements Intel® Learn programs as part of the Ruwwad Palestinian Youth Empowerment Project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Intel Learn program extends learning opportunities beyond the classroom, using an engaging project-centered approach. The program enriches the lives of youth in underserved communities and helps them develop the 21st century skills they will need to succeed in a knowledge economy.

The most recent cycle of ICT courses at the YDRCs recently came to an end, with youth graduating from one of three Intel Learn curricula. This cycle also saw youth complete a recently launched Technology and Entrepreneurship curriculum at the YDRCs. Led by youth (as are all of the Intel Learn programs), the class received great interest from participants, with enrollment exceeding the numbers initially targeted by the YDRCs. Throughout the three-month course, students explored how to use technology to advance business ideas. They were responsible for creating an innovative business idea and developing a plan that included market research, financial planning, marketing, and business operations.

At the graduation ceremonies, youth presented their projects, displaying not only their creative ideas but also the public speaking skills and confidence they had gained. Khaled Al Sayyed and Massa Al Sayyed, for example, worked together at the Nablus YDRC to develop a business plan for a 3-D movie theater. When presenting, they discussed, among other topics, services their theater would provide, advertising strategies, and the purpose the theater would serve in the community. Through this and the other presentations, audience members were able to see firsthand the innovative ideas and entrepreneurial skills of the graduating youth.”



Participants in the Intel® Learn program present their projects during the graduation ceremony in Nablus.

The success of the Intel Learn program as a whole was reflected in the students' creativity and enthusiasm. In Nablus, Intel Learn graduates collaborated to write a song about their experience. “At the center,” they sang, “love brings us together. We have a teacher who advises us, Intel Learn we are your students, we won't forget you no matter what.” After describing more of what they learned, the singers concluded: “We love you Intel Learn!” To listen to the full song, visit: <http://go.edc.org/Intel-Ruwwad-video>.

For more information email: iddinfo@edc.org.