Voices From the Lab
Meet the Spanish-speaking class at Elevation Station! In a computer basics class designed to meet their needs, confidence and enthusiasm thrives. Edid says, “I want to keep learning. I’m not afraid anymore.”

Learn more about Edid and her classmates in our new series!

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Progress Report

Workstations available: 1,230
People trained: 46,635
Training hours: 947,415
Total Number of Users: 366,077
Public Computer Centers total: 71

*As of December 31, 2011

A Big Thank You
First Celebration Luncheon honors TXC2 community center partners

Our TXC2 project can’t bring digital literacy and access to underserved Houston without the 16 community-based organizations honored at our first Celebration Luncheon and awards ceremony. The luncheon, says Director of Houston Operations/Programs Pam Gardner, “was to provide PCC directors with a forum to meet, to share information and to show our sincere appreciation.”

By serving specific local needs on a grassroots level, these community centers link TFA’s technology to underserved children, youth and adults. While each center offers different services, digital empowerment is a universal need. “Kids can’t do homework outside of school, people can’t fill out applications—these public computer centers exist because there’s a need for access.”

A Dose of Digital
TFA students’ lives reflect studies on healthcare and access

According to Health Topics and other recent studies from the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project, technology and
Internet access is increasingly used to search health topics, find support and manage personal accounts. “Even now, you sign in with a computer,” says Nina, a student at New Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church's Texas Connects Coalition computer lab.

However, the studies also show patients with biggest health issues--like seniors--are the least likely to be online, as some TXC2 students well know. Johnnie Mae joined a computer course because she didn't receive test results in the mail as usual. When she called her doctor, she was told test results were now emailed. “You don’t exist if you’re not online.”

In other news, the Baylor College of Medicine has included TFA, Bosch and other universities, health and community organizations in a major grant proposal for a Technology-Enabled Health Initiative. This collaboration joins high-tech with high-touch to prevent emergency care and enable self-management for patients with chronic diseases in Southeast Texas.