

TechMission 2015



TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH
JESUS, JUSTICE, AND TECHNOLOGY

2015 | ANNUAL REPORT

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2015 Annual Report

TechMission

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH
JESUS, JUSTICE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the past 10 years, technology and the Internet have been transforming society. As the world becomes more connected electronically, we become more disconnected relationally. America is now more segregated than it was before the Civil Rights movement, and there are now more African-Americans in the U.S. correctional system than there were slaves. But while church budgets have increased, the percentage of what churches give to the poor has decreased dramatically. We live in an age of “social leprosy” where we have become disconnected socially from each other. Leprosy destroys the body because it attacks the nervous system, so lepers cannot feel when a body part is damaged; with social leprosy, we have lost touch with the pain of others in our world.

The goal of TechMission is to function as the nervous system in the Body to connect people to the poor, and we do this by using the power of technology and the Internet to multiply resources. In the past 10 years, TechMission:

- Provided accredited college courses with **943 students taking 3,102 courses** through City Vision University
- Funded **580 full-time interns** serving over 24,000 at-risk youth and other populations through TechMission Corps and City Vision Internships
- Matched **72,821 volunteers** through ChristianVolunteering.org
- Served over **11 million unique visitors** through our websites overall
- **Provided \$74 million in resources to sites** only spending \$12 million (616% return on investment)

Based on the exponential growth of our past 10 years, we believe in the next 10 years we will be able to provide hundreds of millions of dollars worth of resources to ministries serving the poor by providing urban ministry resources and training, equipping tens of thousands of urban ministry students and placing thousands of interns. By doing this, we can transform communities by connecting millions of people to the poor.

Andrew Sears
Executive Director



TechMission 2015: At a Glance

TECHMISSION PROGRAMS



Our Values: Jesus, Justice, & Technology



TechMission Outcomes

	2013	2014	2015 Goal	2015 Actual	10 Year Total
Interns (FTE)	79	44	50	44	560
Course Registrations	436	477	550	541	3,102
Volunteers	3,802	5,562	5,500	3,760	72,821
Web Visitors	1,016,475	1,177,598	1,100,00	1,204,200	11,398,895
Budget	\$925,794	\$539,732	\$470,196	\$461,176	\$12,011,359
Resources Provided	\$7,554,877	\$5,680,454	\$5,929,850	\$4,953,050	\$74,022,385
Social Rol	816%	1052%	1261%	993%	616%

TechMission in 2015



\$4.95 Million to Ministries = 993% Social Rol

The Tech Poverty Fighter:

How Andrew Sears at TechMission harnesses the Web to fuel urban ministry.

CHRISTIANITY  TODAY

by Eileen O’Gorman | Christianity Today Online

“If you ask the average person on the street right now what’s changing the world more than anything else, the response will probably be technology,” said Andrew Sears. “But Christians often resist technology. We are fighting battles against injustice, but are using antiquated tools. It’s like the other side has tanks and jet planes, and Christians are fighting with sticks.”

By using internet-based technology to connect people and resources, Sears and the organization he helped found, TechMission, are finding new approaches to overcome systemic poverty in the United States and beyond.

All of this is a far cry from Sears’s upbringing in inner-city Kansas City, Missouri. He spent most of his childhood living on the streets because they were safer than his home.

As a teen...he saw the destruction woven into his community and funneled all of his energy toward launching out of it.

[After graduating as valedictorian from the University of Missouri and co-founding the Internet Telephony Consortium while in grad school at MIT,] Sears was on a road to follow Bill Gates. But he woke up from 100-hour workweeks and realized he was on the run [from God]. It was at that point the gift of his technological brilliance was combined with a gift of personal and biblical insight...[As Sears’ faith took root], he began to deal with scars from an abusive past, and for the first time started imagining how modern technology could be used to overcome poverty in Jesus’ name.

Starting with a church-based computer training center at Bruce Wall Ministries in inner-city Boston, Sears saw one provision after another propelling him and his partners forward to use technology to respond to the issues woven into impoverished communities.

While the initial computer training work connected urban youth with skills for viable employment, Sears realized that much more than technological training was needed to overcome the hurdles the youth were facing.

So in 2000, in partnership with other Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) leaders, Sears founded TechMission...[Since then,] TechMission has served a vital role in connecting under-resourced individuals with technological training, and also in connecting a sometimes disconnected group of urban ministry practitioners with each other.

CCDA advisory board member and TechMission founding board member Rudy Carrasco says that Sears “is a



person with huge tech credibility who also is a hard-core incarnational and relational urban ministry leader.” Carrasco...shares Sears’s passion for building on the intersection of poverty and technology. “If you say technology and poverty to most Christians, thoughts move toward, How can I get a cheap mobile phone to a poor person?” said Carrasco. “Andrew is trying to address the systemic issues involved in poverty such as: Can a kid get access to the kind of education he needs and have the support of his community, family, and church?”

“We list our values as Jesus and justice to emphasize both meeting the needs of the whole person and our affiliation with the social justice tradition of the church, like the Salvation Army, Gospel Rescue Missions, and the Christian Community Development Association,” said Sears. “The problem is that our society is structured in a way that those with the greatest physical needs are often segregated from those with the most resources.”

More than 15 years after Sears stopped running from his childhood, his organization has equipped and sent thousands of people to reach children and adults in the kinds of circumstances he once faced.

“Jesus said the summary of the Bible was to love God and love others,” Sears said. “Paul used the latest technologies to do that—Roman roads and letters—and we want to do the same.”

Read the full article online at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/thisisourcity/7thcity/tech-poverty-fighter.html>

City Vision University provides radically affordable online Christian education to underserved communities, offering degrees in Addiction Studies, Nonprofit Management, Urban Missions, Business, and Technology & Social Entrepreneurship.

City Vision University was established in 1998 as Rescue College, a program of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (www.agrm.org) intended to train those involved in urban ministry. In 2008, Rescue College became a part of TechMission and was renamed City Vision College. Its focus was broadened to Christian social services generally, with the addition of degrees in Addiction Studies and Nonprofit Management.

In 2014, the college began offering a master's degree in Technology and Social Entrepreneurship (MTSE). In 2015 it became City Vision University and started offering its Business Administration program. It also launched new initiatives to partner with unaccredited educational institutions in the US for Prior Learning Assessment credit, and with international colleges to provide the "top-up degree" to finish their educational program.

City Vision is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission and is an affiliate member of the Association for Biblical Higher Education. DEAC is recognized by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). All faculty members have graduate degrees and are current or past practitioners in their fields with and a passion for mentoring future leaders.

1. Students can apply and be awarded Pell grants, federal student loans, Veterans Assistance, Workforce Investment Act, and Vocational Rehabilitation funds. The current Pell grant is \$5,775 and covers a full year of college, including textbooks. Additional discounts are available for some students, such as international students and members of AGRM rescue missions.
2. We are approved to provide bachelor's degrees in Addiction Studies, Nonprofit Management, Urban Missions, and Business, as well as an associate's degree in Business, and a master's degree in Technology & Social Entrepreneurship.

More information can be found at www.cityvision.edu

Course registrations grew from 477 in 2014 to 541 (a 13% increase) in 2015.

Student enrollments grew from 129 in 2014 to 160 (a 24% increase) in 2015.



Melissa Patton
Dean of School of Ministry and Social Services



Joy Vann-Hamilton
Dean of School of Business



Ann Marie Cameron-Thompson
Financial Aid Manager



Nancy Young
Director of Admissions



Rachael Jarboe
Program Assistant



Evan Donovan
Director of Technology

Bachelor's Degree Programs

Addiction Studies

Business Administration

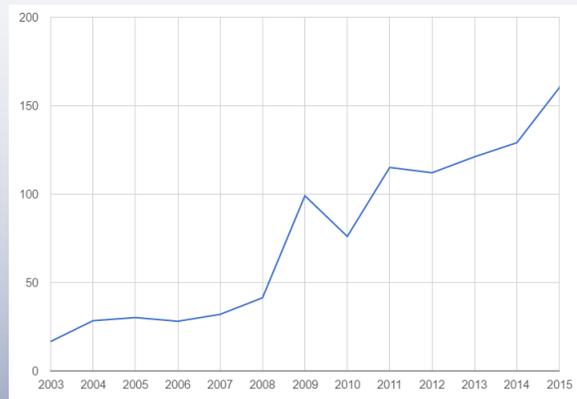
Nonprofit Management

Missions (Urban Ministry)

Associate's in Business Administration

Master's in Technology and Social Entrepreneurship

City Vision Students By Year



City Vision University: The Global Opportunity

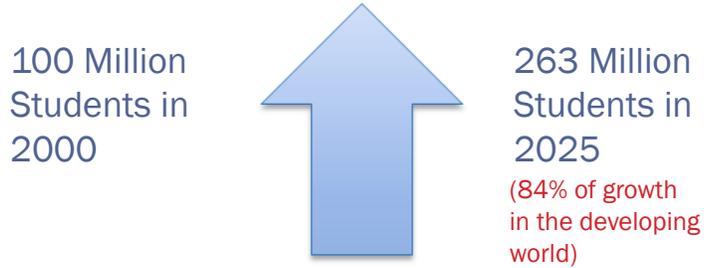
Andrew Sears completed his doctoral dissertation on disruptive innovation in higher education in 2014. That research showed him the immense opportunity that there is for global Christian higher education, as the population seeking higher education expands in the developing world.

Overall, projections estimate that there will be 137 million new students in developing countries by 2025. Christian higher education will have to scale dramatically - from 4 million to 10 million students globally - in order to keep pace with this growth.

At the same time that higher education is growing dramatically, the center of Christianity is shifting dramatically to the developing world - the Global South. This opens up new avenues for institutions that can work on a low-cost model like that which this region needs.

So far, City Vision University has secured a relationship with Graffins College in Kenya, and has enrolled the first cohort of students coming from another institution. We are currently in the process of developing an undergraduate degree in Christian Ministry & Leadership, so that we can tap into the market of unaccredited Bible schools globally and use them as a channel for people wishing to complete their degree. We anticipate launching our Christian Ministry & Leadership degree in 2017.

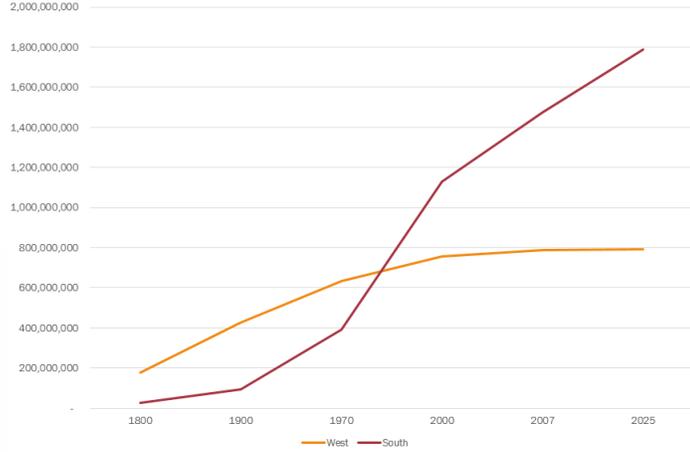
Higher Ed Growth by 2025: 137M New Students in Developing Countries



Christian Higher Education globally must grow from less than 4 million students to more than 10 million just to keep pace with growth.

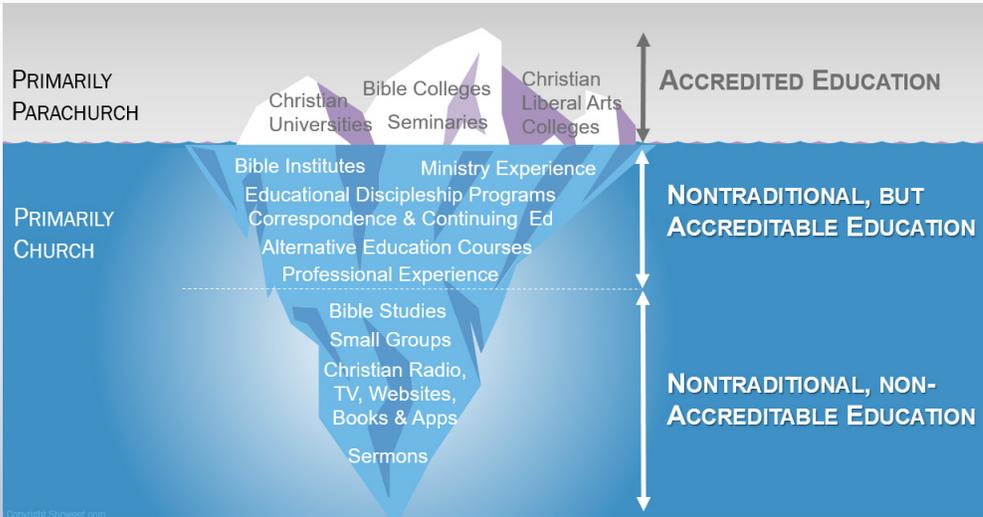
Sources: Karaim, R. (2011). Expanding higher education: should every country have a world-class university. CQ Global Researcher, 5(22), 525-572.
Lutz, W., & KC, S. K. (2013). Demography and Human Development: Education and Population Projections. UNDP-HDRO Occasional Papers, (2013/04). Retrieved from http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdro_1304_lutz_kc.pdf

Christian Membership by Region



Source: Status of Global Mission 2014 - Todd Johnson. <http://www.gordonconwell.edu/resources/documents/statusofglobalmission.pdf>

Connecting Accredited & Unaccredited Christian Training



See the full Disruptive Innovation in Christian Higher Education playlist at <https://goo.gl/8boCJL>

CITY VISION UNIVERSITY

Real Impact Stories

The Made to Love Difference: Tony Harris' Story



Tony Harris, founder and director of Made to Love, an all-volunteer nonprofit that creates jobs and funds education for children in Haiti, was a full time fireman who had hopes of sending a few children in Haiti to school. When he decided to complete his own undergraduate

something “right along the lines of what I wanted.”

After being referred to City Vision by a friend and drawn in by the degree pathways and affordability, Harris took courses that he saw would provide him with hands-on, real world experience as opposed to a textbook. At the time, he was using his education for work he was doing essentially as a volunteer. At City Vision, he learned grant writing, basic accounting, ethical and moral financial practices, and was able to connect with people in his community with similar passions. However, the course of his life was changed yet again when he took a missions trip to Haiti in 2010, post the earthquake, to build homes.

During that missions trip, he saw a huge need for jobs and education, but had no idea on how he would be able to help. At first, he had the idea to sponsor a child. However, when he returned home, his wife, Christin, and their friend, Shari, learned to sew and sold shirts to raise money for education. Soon they shifted into the fair-trade space, purchasing jewelry, art, and metalwork from artists every time they returned to Haiti to be sold here in America. This shift allowed them to not only fund education, but also provide jobs and income for many artisans—achieving their main goals. They began with a “couple hundred bucks the first year, a couple thousand bucks, and every year we pretty much doubled.” In the past year, they have actually tripled and were able to open up a shop in the city.

Today, Made to Love is located in a storefront with a huge window on one of the busiest streets in downtown Hamilton, Ohio, selling crafts and art created by Haitian artisans. The organization has funded a school that is completely run by them and has 250 children in school. Two hundred of these children attend their funded school, which also employs 6 teachers and provides all the books, uniforms, and needed materials. They are still continuing to work directly with 20 Haitian artisans and 3 co-ops to create jobs and even more educational opportunities, visiting these spaces to assure the quality of jobs. The reason they do what they do is to “better the lives of people in Haiti...lessening the number of orphans that parents are forced to abandon when unable to care for them.”

Harris, grounded with the education and tools he received from City Vision University, describes himself differently now. “Accomplishment, confidence, not overwhelmed”—all sentiments that come with working in his passion.

degree, he took courses that fit his time and finances but did not seem to quite fit his desire to do something that helped send those children to school. “Inexperienced, lacked direction, knowledge, and tools,” are the words he uses to describe himself before attending City Vision University. “I had started it [a degree] years ago and just never completed it when I became a fireman.” Harris, a long term fireman for over 13 years now, then made a decision to pivot from the Theology degree he had been pursuing to a degree in Nonprofit Management—

***Over the past few years,
we've recorded video
testimonials of City Vision
University students, faculty,
and ministry leaders at the
AGRM convention.
Find more on our website,
www.cityvision.edu***



CITY VISION BUSINESS PROGRAM

City Vision University's Business program empowers the "bottom half" socioeconomically, by giving them the skills to rise up out of poverty.

City Vision's Business degree was approved in July of 2015. This program is intended to give the "bottom half" socioeconomically practical skills to make a living and a life.

Previously, City Vision focused on degrees to help the poor work with the impoverished, so this marks a broadening of our focus. This degree also is intended to be one of the the primary degrees that we offer to international students, as per our strategy described above.

Business degrees are already the most popular among college students in the US, and we expect that this holds true internationally as well. An extremely low-cost Business degree can provide the needed training for workers seeking to rise into the lower middle class, through administrative and call center positions, among others.

Disruptive Innovation Thought Leadership

To bring the ideas from his dissertation on Disruptive Education in Higher Education to a wider audience, Andrew Sears, our Executive Director, created a free MOOC on the topic in Udemy. It contains 23 lectures and over 5 hours of content on the subject. Over 1000 students have taken it so far.

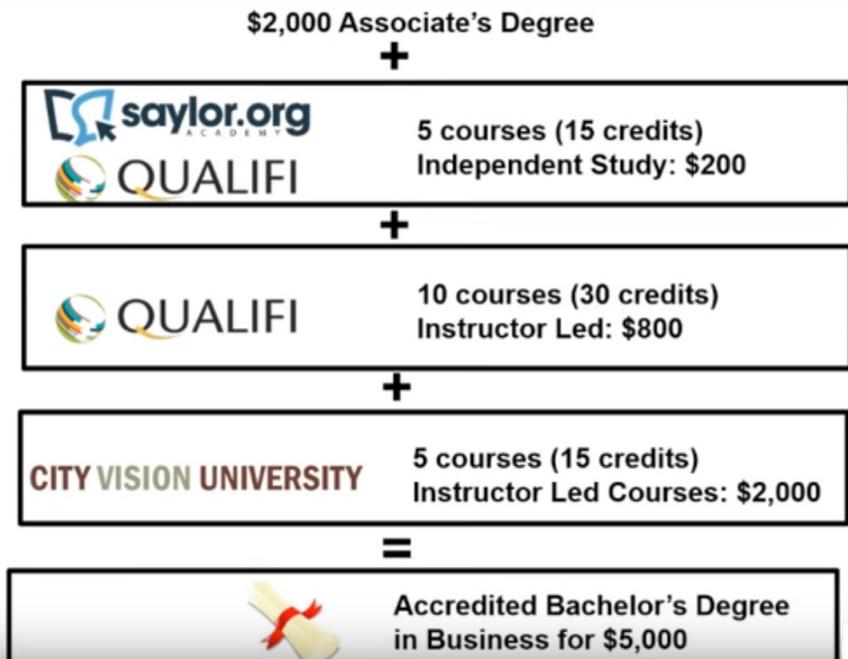
As a result of his work, he was invited to present before a gathering of Christian college presidents from the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities that was convened by the Maclellan Foundation.

Study online at: 

<http://goo.gl/cpB1JH>

City Vision is also working on a follow-up Master's of Business Administration degree, with a projected approval date of 2017, for students seeking more high-level positions. This degree will rely in part on content originally created for the Master's in Technology and Ministry degree, broadening its appeal.

City Vision-Saylor Degree Path: A Bachelor's for \$5,000



In addition to City Vision's regular Business degree path, we also now offer a degree path in partnership with Saylor Academy (a popular US-based MOOC) and Qualifi (a UK-based awarding organization). This enables us to offer a Bachelor's in Business for a total of \$5,000 for 4 years and an Associate's for \$2,000 for 2 years.

This is a degree path primarily for international students who are willing to pursue self-study, since the Saylor and courses that make up much of the first 3 years of the degree (in the case of the Bachelor's) are self-paced, rather than professor-led.

The program drew some press coverage this past year due to its extremely low cost as well as the unique way that it enables students to get full academic credit, not merely a certificate of completion, for taking MOOC courses.

Featured in


CITY VISION PARTNERSHIPS

City Vision University offers discounts to various organizations and individuals through partnerships.

Credit Partnerships for Unaccredited Ministry Training

City Vision offers Prior Learning Assessment to students who have received unaccredited ministry training or have prior relevant experience. Students can earn up to 30 credits through this mechanism.

In some cases, we also work with institutions to submit their content to our accreditor, DEAC, so that the actual courses may become credit-bearing. Many partners will continue to conduct their non-credit live training as they have in the past, but training participants may choose to get credit for the training through the online course.

Students can transfer credit from the following institutions and receive a \$3,500/year scholarship for City Vision courses, so tuition is only \$3,500/year (\$350/course):

- Mission Year
- Saylor Academy
- New York Divinity School
- The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI)
- Wheeler Mission Ministries
- Kingdom Story Leadership Institute

Employer Paid Tuition Discount

We partner with rescue missions, Salvation Army sites, and other ministry organizations that want to provide training to their ministry employees at a 50% discount.



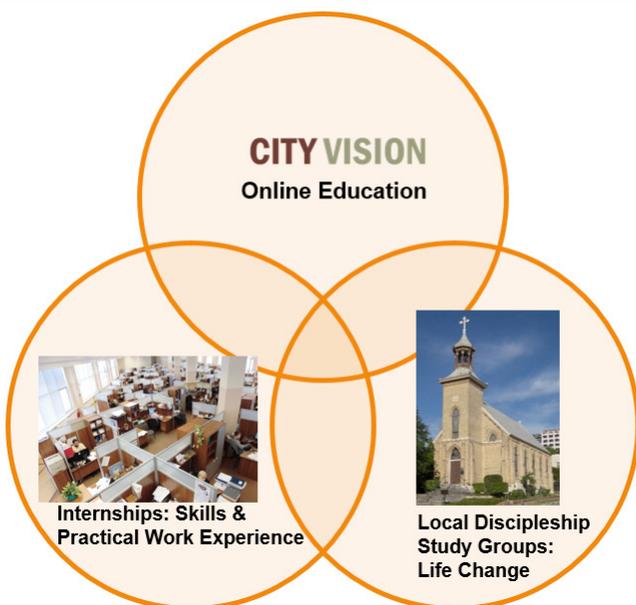
Four Partnership Options for \$3,500/year

City Vision Mentoring Discount

We partner with organizations that have lower-income program participants whom they wish to send to college. We offer a Christian alternative to community college, while providing a revenue source for discipleship programs.

This is in keeping with our overall pedagogy, that values combining online education with on-site experience. We believe that there is no substitute for firsthand experience, and aim to have as many students as possible to find internships. Furthermore, we recognize that online education is strong in the transmission of facts, but must be balanced by in-person community in order to shape the whole person. For this reason, we promote our students' involvement in the local church. We hope that offering our students the flexibility of online education will enable them to transform their vocational and financial circumstances without taking them out of the social and cultural context in which they already live.

Traditionally, online education has been called "distance education" because the professors are at a distance from those taking the courses. We think, however, that residential education could just as easily be called distance education, since it takes students out of their communities and put them at a distance from the churches and ministries which they will ultimately serve. Our students are largely adults, many of whom are already serving in ministry. Giving them the opportunity to take classes online allows them to remain engaged in the work of ministry while finishing their studies.



City Vision's Pedagogy

CITY VISION INTERNSHIPS

City Vision Internships is a urban ministry internship program, modeled after AmeriCorps, that offers one year or summer internships in Christian ministries, such as youth programs, addiction recovery programs, and rescue missions, while offering free tuition in City Vision University to interns.



Tasha Sousa
Program Director

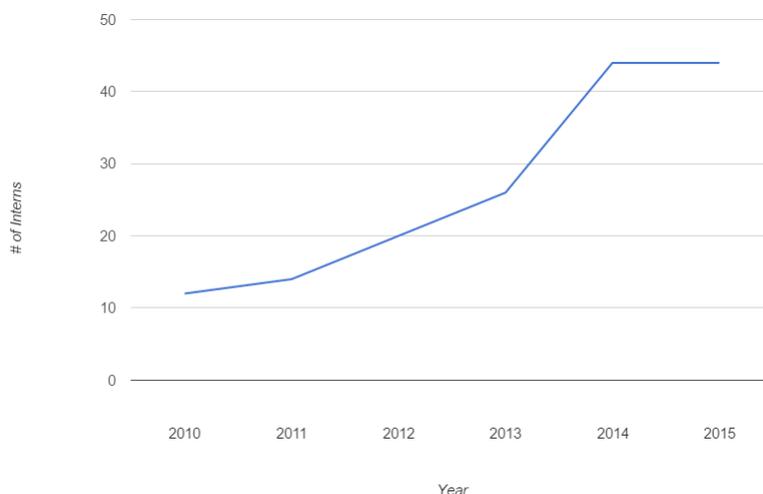


Nykeah Parham
Program Director

Three Types of Internships Offered

- **Work Study Internship in Christian Ministries:** Full tuition scholarship in City Vision University's undergrad programs as part of a 29 hour/week internship; housing is provided by hosting ministry (or a cash equivalent living stipend).
- **One Year Paid Christian Ministry Internship:** Volunteer interns paid a living stipend from \$200-\$600/month; housing is provided by hosting ministry (or a cash equivalent living stipend)
- **Technology & Ministry Master's Fellowship:** Full tuition scholarship in City Vision's Master's in Social Entrepreneurship program or Bakke Graduate University's MBA program while interning 35-40 hours/week.

Growth in City Vision Interns Per Year



Last year, 44 interns were placed, and 52 ministries participated.

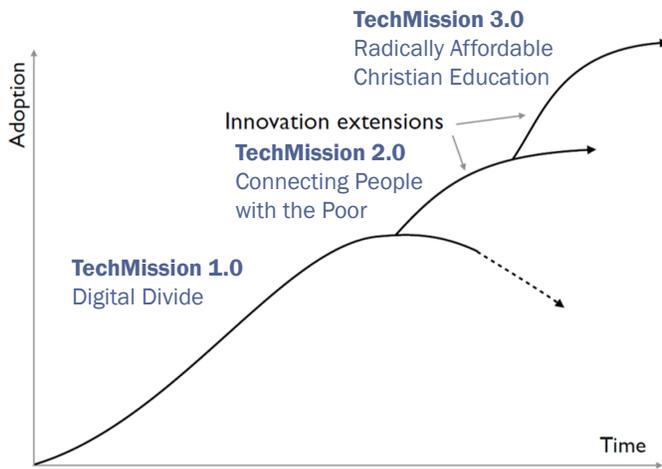


City Vision Internship sites are spread throughout the US and Canada.

Testimonials from Ministry Leaders

- “The staff and interns possess a youthful energy and enthusiasm, combined with a thorough understanding of the overall picture of the ministry. Without the training of key staff through City Vision...Regina RESCUE Mission would not be where it is today.” ~Rev. Michelle Porter, Executive Director, Regina RESCUE Mission, Regina, SK
- “[City Vision] is really practical, Biblically-based, recovery and counseling astute, and very much ministry oriented.” ~Steve Brubaker, Chief Vision Officer, Water Street Rescue Ministries, Lancaster, PA
- “[City Vision] is a great opportunity to learn rescue ministry both academically and experientially.” ~Perry Jones, Capital City Rescue Mission, Albany, NY

TechMission's Organizational Vision



TechMission's "Why" (Jesus, Justice, Technology) and "How" (Making a Living and a Life) have remained the same, but our "What" has adapted to new opportunities.

2015 Budget

INCOME	
Tuition Income	\$227,443
City Vision Internships	\$63,375
Tech Consulting	\$65,308
Foundations	\$62,500
Government	\$0
Individual Donations	\$10,744
TOTAL INCOME	\$432,340
EXPENSE	
Contractual	\$72,305
Fringe Benefits	\$34,929
Program Overhead/Indirect	\$81,200
Personnel TechMission	\$187,196
Supplies	\$7,689
Travel	\$8,177
Other	\$73,987
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$465,533

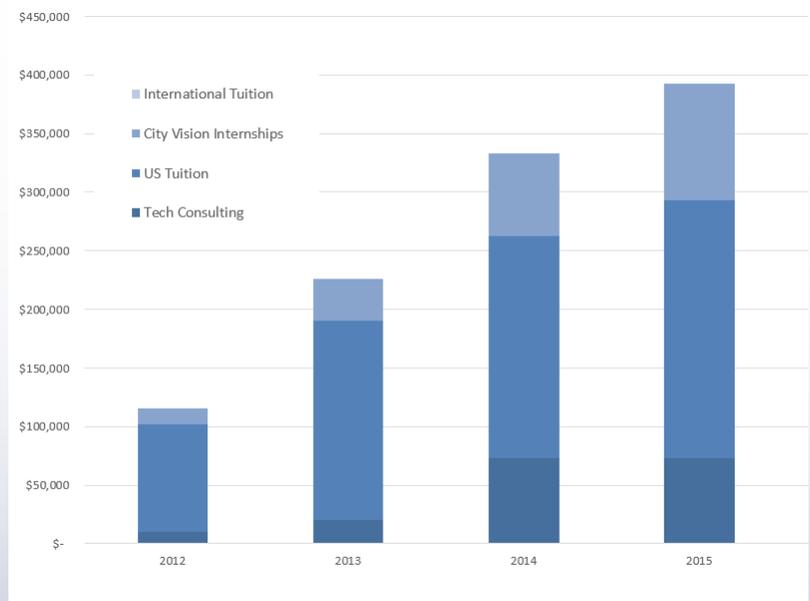
Grants Received 2015 by Organization

Stewardship Foundation	\$50,000
Liberty Mutual Foundation	\$10,000
Edison International	\$2,500

Redirecting Our Funding Strategy

In the past few years, TechMission has made a strategic decision to reduce our dependence on federal grants. A major reason for this is that our core competency involves being entrepreneurial, and we can better do that without government restrictions. This also removes any entanglement of government funding with our Christian mission. A major focus of this strategic "pivot" has been to grow our earned income as shown in the adjacent diagram. While this has resulted in slowed growth initially, we anticipate much more significant and sustained growth in the long run with this strategy.

Growth of Earned Income (non-AmeriCorps)



TechMission Staff

Andrew Sears
Melissa Patton
Joy Vann-Hamilton
Harriet Hodge-Henry
Ann Marie Cameron-Thompson
Nykeah Parham
Tasha Sousa
Nancy Young
Rachael Jarboe
Evan Donovan
Jonathan Spain-Collins

Executive Director
Dean of School of Social Services and Ministry
Dean of School of Business
Operations Contractor
Financial Aid and Accounting Manager
Program Director, City Vision Internships
Program Director, City Vision Internships
Director of Admissions, City Vision University
Program Assistant, City Vision University
Director of Technology
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper,
City Vision Intern

City Vision University Faculty

Cobby Asante-Mensah
Dee Bissell
Steven Brubaker
Barbara Clemenson
John Edmiston
James Harriger
Ken Heitland
Perry Jones
Michael Liimatta
Bill Manduca
Lorraine Minor

Lynda Mitton
Richard Nongard
Edna Quiros
Bob Rapp
Kelvin Shelma
Mark Siegrist
Mark Turner
William Valmyr
James VarnHagen
Gabe Veas

TechMission's Board of Directors

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Jeremy Del Rio, Esq.

Dr. Jay Gary

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Steve Nelson

Dr. Brad Smith

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