

From a 5-star reviewed Fiverr consultant. Total cost was \$105. This article does not necessarily reflect the views of the AIM Institute or Silicon Prairie News and is submitted for your amusement.

Bridging the Tech Talent Gap in Omaha

Omaha is one of those charming American cities that offers a high quality of life for all of its residents. In one recent survey, Omaha hit the “sweet spot” of rankings for [economy, quality of life, and housing affordability](#). While it may not be at the top of mind for some people, it is an outstanding city that presents many professional and personal opportunities.

Nevertheless, there are certain areas in the Omaha private sector that need improvement. One of those areas centers on bridging the tech talent gap in the city. While many metropolitan cities have created conditions to nurture the latest and hottest technology companies, Omaha has fallen behind its counterparts. And for those tech companies that have set up shop in Omaha? Many have complained that there are [not enough skilled workers](#) to fill their job vacancies.

That said, this gap provides a massive opportunity for individuals and organizations who wish to invest in tech education in the city. Whether it is through the development of code schools or working with local universities to emphasize STEM education, the IT job shortage does not have to be a permanent phenomenon.

Tech Education in Omaha: Room for Improvement

As stated above, business leaders in the greater Omaha area have complained about an IT job shortage. The crunch, in fact, seems [most acute for computer programmers](#). Regardless of their preferred programming language or specialty, companies in both tech and non-tech sectors are looking for candidates who know how to leverage the power of disruptive technologies. Some of those companies include Nebraska-located startups [like](#) Toast, Spreetail, Buildertrend, Flywheel, and Hudl.

These business leaders in Omaha have complained that the tech shortage has reached “[crisis levels](#).” Because of the tech talent gap in Omaha, Nebraska tech companies have needed to [fill good-paying jobs outside of the state](#). Not only has this potentially cost the state of Nebraska thousands of lucrative jobs, but it has drastically limited work opportunities for Omaha residents who *are* interested in working in tech.

Ultimately, metropolitan areas like [Boulder, Austin, and others](#) have taken advantage of the massive opportunities in the tech sector. Founders of small, scrappy startups and C suite executives at some of the largest tech firms in the country have recognized the available talent and sheer enthusiasm that exists in these cities. Because of this, these cities have attracted even more opportunities for individuals who are looking to build the next great startup or simply apply their skills at a young, scrappy firm.

Potential Solutions

While Omaha certainly has room for improvement, the potential for improvement absolutely exists.

One strategy to address the IT job shortage in Omaha centers on [code schools](#). Code schools help students learn the latest programming languages, which they can then use to join a startup or start their own company. One code school that is currently helping Omaha students is [AIM Code School](#). An accredited AIM institute program, the code school helps students learn the latest coding skills—all while keeping their current day jobs. The AIM Code School also offers students introductions to its professional network that connects students and businesses throughout the Midwest (including Omaha). Code schools like AIM Code School can certainly play an important role in bridging the tech gap in Omaha.

Along with code schools, several business leaders from across Nebraska have gathered to form the [Nebraska Tech Collaborative](#). The Collaborative has [several committees brainstorming solutions](#) on creating a tech pipeline from K-12 schools, promoting diversity and inclusion in tech, creating more internships, making tech a compelling option for those considering a career change, and recruiting tech workers from other states. While its work is ongoing, the Nebraska Tech Collaborative may put forth some promising solutions on tech education in Omaha and the state of Nebraska.

Making Substantive Change

Solving the tech gap in Omaha isn't going to occur by itself. It is going to take hard work from community leaders and leaders in the private sector. Luckily, there are several available ways to proceed, ranging from investing in code schools like AIM Code School or focusing on tech education in primary and secondary schools. While there likely isn't an immediate fix, the solutions are out there to help Omaha address this IT job shortage.