



# THE Connection

## GBT's GOLD Invitational: Paving the Way for Future Technological Talent

**Our first-ever GOLD (*GBT Opportunities and Leadership Development*) Invitational is in the books and we couldn't be more excited about the future of the youth in our area!**

The GOLD Invitational was created to increase awareness of GBT careers and excite local youth to come back and work for GBT and our local communities post-high school!

We invited our service area's high schools to hand-select students interested in technology careers and come to our Rush Center headquarters for a day of



hands-on learning activities that gave them insights into the exciting careers of Service Technicians, Networking, IT, Construction, and Engineering.

For the past decade, GBT has been actively supporting and nurturing our local youth through the Junior Board program. GOLD was inspired by the Junior Board's concept but also takes into consideration the unique and specific interests of students in the field of technology. GBT further encourages local youth by offering internship opportunities and by our new NCK-Tech student sponsorship program. (*We have already provided two students with full-ride scholarships for higher education, and they will have career opportunities with us as soon as they finish their schooling!*)

A constant focus of ours is to help our local youth by providing them with opportunities to kick-start their careers, ultimately strengthening our local communities in the process!



# HANDS ON LEARNING



# 70%

The GOLD Invitational event allowed us to engage with students and identify prospective interns among them. **Did you know that 70% of interns end up getting a job offer from the place they interned?**

Students were offered four exciting hands-on learning experiences. They acquired the skill of splicing fiber-optic cables together. They created their own V-LAN networks and comprehended their practical applications in the daily routines of our IT and Network technicians. They also mastered the art of locating buried fiber cables and other utilities, and finally, they gained expertise in connecting CAT-6 cables, the very cables our technicians use to wire homes and businesses!



# 21 / 6

21 students from 6 of our area's High Schools participated in the GOLD Invitational!



# 47% ↓

In Kansas, we see more students leaving (47% more) than arriving. Our mission is to make local students excited about returning to our area by highlighting available opportunities here. These students are vital for the future growth of our communities!



# UNWRAPPING THE BENEFITS: WHY YOU SHOULD UPGRADE YOUR INTERNET SPEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

**The Holidays are almost here, and now is the perfect time to think about upgrading your GBT Internet speed. Here are a few reasons why you might want to...**

## **Increased Online Activities:**

During the holiday season, people tend to engage in more online activities. This includes streaming holiday movies, participating in video calls with friends and family, online gaming, and shopping. Faster Internet speeds can ensure a smooth experience without buffering or lag.

## **Multiple Devices:**

With more people at home during the holidays, there is likely to be an increase in the number of devices connected to the Internet. This can strain your existing network, and faster speeds can help accommodate the additional devices without a drop in performance.

## **Video Calls:**

Many people use video calls to connect with loved ones who are far away during the holidays. Faster Internet speeds can improve the quality of video calls, reducing the chances of frozen screens or poor audio quality.

## **Online Gaming:**

If you or your family members enjoy online gaming, faster Internet speeds can reduce latency and provide a smoother gaming experience. This is especially important for games that require quick reactions and precision.

## **Streaming Content:**

Streaming services like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+, and others are popular during the holidays. Faster speeds allow for streaming content in higher quality, such as 4K, without interruption.

## **Online Shopping:**

Holiday shopping often involves online transactions. Faster Internet speeds can make the shopping experience more efficient, ensuring that web pages load quickly and transactions process smoothly.

## **Reducing Frustration:**

Slow Internet can be frustrating, especially when you're trying to accomplish tasks quickly during the busy holiday season. Upgrading your Internet speed can reduce frustration and make your online activities more enjoyable.

## **Future-Proofing:**

As technology advances, online activities tend to become more bandwidth-intensive. Upgrading your Internet speed can future-proof your home network, ensuring that it can handle the demands of evolving online technologies.

**We want your GBT Internet experience to be better than ever this Holiday season, so we're offering current GBT customers a free 3-month Internet upgrade! Just give us a call or sign up online at [gbta.net/Internet-upgrade](https://gbta.net/Internet-upgrade).**



# NAVIGATING NOVEMBER

Whether it's celebrating Thanksgiving with our family and friends, or the celebration of Veteran's Day, to which we owe all the freedoms we take for granted each day, November is a month Americans use to observe the many blessings we are given.

Unfortunately for many, November can also be the start of a depressing time when they remember loved ones no longer with us, or quiet homes that lack the people we want around us to share in storytelling and traditions of years past. We understand the pain and hurt people go through, which is why we want to remind everyone of the 988 Lifeline. This free 3-digit call can be made from any phone and connects you to trained counselors who can listen, provide support, and connect you to resources when

appropriate for individuals who might be having suicidal thoughts or emotional distress. If you're a Veteran and call 988, you can press 1 which is dedicated to Veterans needing support.

We hope as November begins everyone experiences true blessings, but also GBT wants to ensure everyone knows there are free resources out there available with a quick call to 988 for those who need help. With over 2.5 million calls to the 988 Lifeline in 2022, they have the staff, knowledge, and understanding to help out.



## Recipe of the Month:

### Pumpkin Salted Caramels

*Elegant, delicious, and incredibly easy to make. These treats are packed with the chewy goodness you'd expect from caramel, but they offer the sweet comfort and familiar flavor of a homemade pumpkin pie. Enjoy them individually or melt and drizzle some over fresh-picked apples for an unforgettable caramel apple experience.*

#### Ingredients

½ cup (1 stick) Butter (salted)  
1½ cups sugar  
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoon ground ginger  
¼ teaspoon ground allspice  
1 cup light corn syrup  
1½ cup (14 oz. can) sweetened condensed milk  
½ cup 100% Pumpkin puree

#### Directions

1. Prepare a 9-inch square pan by lightly buttering it or lining with parchment paper.
2. In a heavy 2 to 3-quart saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add sugar and spices: thoroughly blend.
3. Add corn syrup, sweetened condensed milk, and pumpkin—stirring well after each addition.
4. Continue to cook over medium heat stirring frequently to prevent scorching until the temperature of the mixture reaches 248°F (firm ball stage).
5. Remove from heat and pour mixture evenly into the prepared pan.

6. When cool, turn candy out of pan and cut into ¾" squares. Wrap individual pieces in 2¼"-3" squares of nonstick aluminum foil or waxed paper. Store in an airtight container.

*Note: 1 teaspoon Pumpkin Pie Spice could be substituted for cinnamon, ground ginger, and ground allspice.*



785-372-4236  
www.gbta.net

**Ellis**  
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**Ness City**  
114 W. Main | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
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**St. John**  
602 N US Hwy 281 | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
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**Larned**  
122 W. 5th | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8 am - 11:30 am; 12:30 pm - 5 pm

**Rush Center**  
103 Lincoln St. | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8 am - 5 pm



## The Connection

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter or any of our services, please email us at [marketing@gbtlive.com](mailto:marketing@gbtlive.com)  
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