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With a global pandemic, a national election, and so much more, 2020 was an eventful year, to say the least. Students and educators were especially impacted as learning went online without much time to prepare. The new format introduced many challenges for classrooms everywhere, but also introduced opportunities to radically rethink what learning looks like in a 21st-century world. Despite a rocky start, I’m hopeful that 2020 can kick off a boldly reimagined education system that prioritizes teaching students how to innovate and adapt to uncertain futures. As Project Invent continues to grow, we promise to be at the forefront of that movement towards a better, more future-forward education system.

Whether you donate to our campaigns, open up your network, or cheer on the sidelines, we thank you for your support. We rely on you to help us bring innovation programs to students everywhere, and you are making a world of impact. As we reflect on 2020 and look ahead to 2021, I’m thankful for the many people we have helping us grow: we reached 50 schools across 14 states this year, and we won’t stop until we’ve reached every high school student in the country. Thank you for helping us continue to realize that dream.

Gratefully,

Connie Liu
Executive Director
OUR MISSION

PROJECT INVENT EMPOWERS STUDENTS WITH THE 21ST-CENTURY SKILLS TO SUCCEED INDIVIDUALLY AND IMPACT GLOBALLY, THROUGH INVENTION.
WHAT WE DO

TEACHER TRAININGS

70+ teachers trained

In partnership with Infosys Foundation USA, we host weeklong trainings twice a year for teachers to learn how to teach invention.

OPEN-SOURCE CURRICULUM

1200+ curriculum downloads

Our curriculum features design thinking, engineering, and entrepreneurship tools to empower every student as an inventor.

TEACHER FELLOWSHIP

50 schools launched

Educators apply to our fellowship to launch Project Invent at their school. After a week of training, each teacher leads a student team through a year of invention that culminates in Demo Day.

ACCELERATE PROGRAM

13 teams enrolled

A Year 2 program for students to continue building their inventions. Student teams get matched with an industry mentor and complete workshops and milestones throughout the year.
OUR IMPACT

IN 2020 WE...
• launched a podcast
• made the news 5 times
• hosted 300+ attendees at 2 virtual Demo Days
• brought our program virtual

IN 2020 OUR TEAM...
• added Jillian as Program Manager
• grew the board from 3 to 6 directors
• surpassed 100 volunteers

BEFORE THE LOCKDOWN...

SANTA CLARA HIGH (CA)
Bob Baxley, well-known Silicon Valley tech executive, visits Santa Clara High School to share his career journey.

FRANCIS PARKER (IL)
We visited a Project Invent team in Chicago and helped conduct a roundtable design review of their invention.

PATHFINDERS (RI)
We hosted over 20 teachers in Providence for 3 fast-paced days of training in making & coding for social good.

87% of students were highly satisfied with their Project Invent experience.

86% of students feel Project Invent uniquely prepared them for success in college & work.

94% of teachers feel highly equipped to bring real-world projects into their everyday classrooms.

100% of teachers said our curriculum was helpful to their teaching.
COVID-19 RESPONSE

When COVID-19 hit, we had to adapt quickly. We immediately published a resource library for students and teachers to continue inventing from home, and moved both of our in-person Demo Days virtual. We redesigned our program to make creative collaboration and user empathy possible in an online environment. Here are some snippets from our COVID-19 response.

COVID RESOURCE LIBRARY

VIRTUAL DEMO DAY

DEAL ME IN
A robotic card game assistant for people with cerebral palsy to play cards.

WHITE SALMON, WA

LEND-A-HAND
A tech-enabled glove that helps to stretch arthritic hands.

SANTA CLARA, CA

RIPTIDE
An easy-to-use, accessible reading pen that aids kids with dyslexia by decoding any printed text into spoken words.

MENLO PARK, CA
NEW INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY PARTNER MATCH

Core to our program are our community partners. People like Abby who uses a wheelchair or Jimmy who is blind share their stories, and our students come up with inventions for how they would solve their day-to-day challenges. Typically, teachers find their own community partners for their teams. In 2021, we will launch a pilot of community partner matching for our schools nationwide.

STRATEGIC PLANNING 2021-2024

Our third birthday is coming up quickly, and we’re starting to think about the future. This year, we created the strategic plan for the next three years ahead of us. We’re excited for new fundraising plans, increased R&D budgets, and exponentially scaling our program over the next few years.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

We had to pivot quickly to make our program possible in a virtual learning environment. From bringing Demo Day virtual to hosting our weeklong teacher training online, we adapted every part of our program to make it possible in a COVID-19 world. We also launched Idea Review, a new mid-year milestone event for all student teams to get feedback about their ideas from professionals.
WHAT’S NEXT

IN 2021, WE’RE DOUBLING THE TEAM FROM 3 TO 6, GROWING TO 100 SCHOOLS, AND LAUNCHING A NEW COMMUNITY MATCHING PLATFORM.

After a successful 2020, we enter 2021 with even higher ambitions for our impact.

In 2021, we aim to make Project Invent more accessible, impactful, and sustainable. We’re growing the team so we can support even more impact, and we’re finally hitting triple digits(!) with our schools.

We’re also launching new initiatives to help our program reach even more students. One that we’re most excited about is the community partner matching platform to help connect classrooms everywhere with real problems in their community.

We’re excited to empower many more young innovators in 2021.