2016 GOALS AND CHALLENGES

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

For over 16 years, PAST’s mission and vision has remained laser-focused - transforming the educational landscape.

PAST’s commitment to innovative education models drove the design and build of America's first independent educational research and development facility.

Today, PAST Innovation Lab is a thriving center for real-world interactions bringing together students of all ages, educators, businesses and industries. PAST Innovation Lab melds all stakeholders into a community that is building tomorrow today.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2016?

Non-profit funding is always a primary challenge. Fortunately, in late 2015 PAST was able to negotiate a favorable contract to acquire and renovate the 32,000sf building located at 1003 Kinnear Road, in Columbus, Ohio, investing $3,200,000 to date.

Launched in 2015, this project has drawn interest from around the world, including facility visits from industry leaders, government representatives, and educational supporters.

In 2016 PAST spent the majority of its time, talent and resources getting the new Innovation Lab in place: The total project cost is estimated at $5,000,000.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF INNOVATION, CREATION, AND DISRUPTION

Our pathway has been consistent and unwavering since 2000 through 2016, significant milestones include:

- 2000-2005 built a portfolio of outreach programs establishing our informal education programs
- 2005 established PAST’s new headquarters in Columbus, Ohio
- 2005 initiated professional development and school redesign to informal programs
- 2007 added knowledge capture (internal/external evaluation) to study the STEM educational landscape
- 2010 launched hybrid teaching model platforms in rural schools
- 2014 developed online learning platforms for teacher professional development
- 2016 designed and opened the nation’s only independently run educational R&D prototyping facility
2016 AREAS OF FOCUS AND IMPACT

**school design**

*Linking Learning to Life*

Helping districts, schools and teachers re-envision what learning looks like - meaningful, innovative, engaging through educator and leadership professional development (PD):
- 400 Educators experienced on-site PD
- 188 Educators completed online PD
- 407 PD Events

Students from Reynoldsburg’s Herbert Mills Elementary School applying art, ELA, science and fun

**past innovation lab**

*Launching an Educational R&D Prototyping Facility*

Bringing together K-12, post-secondary, industry and community partners to design and test new learning environments that meet the needs our rapidly changing world:
- 5 Learning Labs
- Engineers in Residence Program
  - Network as an in-resident collection of like-minded growth-phase companies in social enterprise with the PAST Foundation
  - 25 industry & business partnerships

Students from 17 area elementary and middle schools at the PAST Innovation Lab to meet the STORM electric motorcycle team on the Ohio stop of their world tour

**bridge programs**

*Creating Innovative, Hands-on Student Experiences*

Collaborating with professionals and community partners, students engage in solving real world problems bridging the gap between formal learning and informal programs:
- 26 student bridge programs
- 533 student participants
- 13 robotics team business and industry sponsors
- Competition robotics arena
- State of the art business and industry run fab lab

Middle school students engaged with problem solving and math while playing in Minecraft Mathematics, one of our most popular bridge programs

**knowledge capture**

*Capturing Actionable Data to Transform Learning*

Conducting evaluation to provide evidence-based data to inform decision-making and create actionable pathways for change:
- 4 projects
- 4 Ohio counties
- KC instruments - observations, interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, online surveys

PAST’s Knowledge Capture team collects and analyzes data from our various projects and partnerships
MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR CONSTITUENTS

In response to the needs of students, parents, community and business leaders, PAST Foundation created an educational model in 2015 that successfully partners students and industry through jointly designed curriculum, internships, and mentoring opportunities. The model PAST developed is replicable across the state and the nation and being used in several Ohio school districts - in both urban and rural settings.

PAST is actively engaged in program activities as it continues to connect with businesses and industries both locally and nationally.

PAST’s COMMUNITY, TEACHER, AND STUDENT IMPACT

*Cumulative Stats from 2000-2016

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**Access Through Innovation**

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2016 has been a remarkable year for the PAST Foundation. We launched and opened the PAST Innovation Lab – a world class Education R&D Prototyping facility in Columbus Ohio. We forged new partnerships, we transitioned staff and staff roles, and we carefully crafted the next phase of PAST’s fingerprint on the landscape of teaching and learning. Amazing and exhausting all at once!

As I reflect over the past year and as we begin our 17th year, I can only be proud of our collective accomplishments. Our path has been a journey with various twists and turns, all the while moving forward in the name of transforming learning.

As Chief Goddess (everyone at PAST chooses their own meta title), the most rewarding part of my job is that I have the awesome opportunity to lead and direct an incredibly talented tribe of innovators. From field scientists to artists to engineers to educators, we are able to attract and retain some of the best talent available. Although very different from one to the other, we come together as a diverse group of collaborative thinkers to help make education more relevant and meaningful to students all around the globe.

PAST stands for Partnering Anthropology with Science and Technology – and as anthropologists and research scientists - we are the scientists of humanity. Simply put, we study and strive to understand complex human interactions and outputs based on the web of debris left behind. We open a metaphorically sealed "container" every time we scientifically investigate, we destroy evidence as we excavate and although we are master documenters we can never really recreate all of the variables that make up research project as we begin to understand the complex variables of the problems we are trying to solve. As a discipline, we owe it to humanity to be meticulous, to be flawless, to be thorough and inclusive in our pursuit of answering the questions, “What is this place/thing? Who left it behind and what does it mean?” This is why anthropology as a process and a methodology make the perfect tool for teaching. When applying the principles of sound research and field methods to any discipline of study traditional teaching and learning are instantly transformed.

At the PAST Foundation, we have spent the last 18 years utilizing this very philosophy - we train teachers, students and communities in the art of asking probing questions, in applying the scientific methods and the design thinking to solve complex problems, linking learning to life.

Working in 34 states across the US and abroad, we are proud of the success we have achieved. PAST has offered over 100 student programs, provided almost 15,000 teachers with professional learning opportunities, our research division has collected hundreds of research moments, we’ve engaged over 300 business and industry partners ... impacting 144,225 students! That’s amazing for a small nonprofit, but we are really just getting started.

Innovation, creativity, and collaboration continue to be our driving forces – after all, PAST is your future! Thank you for making this journey with us. We could not have accomplished this without you.

Warm regards,

Annalies Corbin
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