



# 2014 iEARN-USA ANNUAL REPORT

International Education and Resource Network  
**Learning with the world...not just about it!**

## A MESSAGE FROM **iEARN-USA**

Dear Friend of iEARN-USA:

In 2014 iEARN-USA continued to strengthen and expand the bonds among educators and youth worldwide to harness the power of technology to work together on projects to take action to solve real-life challenges.

The growing importance of virtual exchange and iEARN's work in the field was underscored in November when Vice President Joe Biden announced the creation of a public-private initiative to fund projects that use technology "to strengthen personal engagement between young people in the United States, North Africa and the Middle East and the rest of the world."

The initiative builds on the Christopher Stevens Youth Network (CSYN), a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs that iEARN was chosen to launch and has been implementing since 2012.

In 2014, in the culmination of the second year of the CSYN program, iEARN-USA hosted a public panel discussion in New York with participating educators from across the U.S. on how globally connected learning is transforming their classrooms.

Other highlights from our 2014 Annual Report include:

- A week-long iEARN Annual International Conference and Youth Summit in Puerto Madryn, Argentina in July, which brought together some 300 educators, young people and partners from 25 countries to share experiences and best practices in using technology to build cross-cultural understanding and enhance teaching and learning.
- The debut of a new National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) Interactive website, with multimedia stories that share the experiences of students on the NSLI-Y program with youth, educators, and language learners in the U.S. for further cultural exchange and language learning
- iEARN's first MAD (Make a Difference) Day, a day of volunteering and service across the global iEARN network, featuring 25 events that took place around the world, including a campaign to encourage voter turnout in Tunisia, visits to elder centers in Taiwan, and environmental actions in Bangladesh.



- The launch of the US-Taiwan Eco-Campus Program, a program made possible through a three-year grant to the National Wildlife Federation to support educators and youth to engage in curriculum-based international exchange and collaboration focused on fostering environmental stewardship and a common commitment to conservation.

In the pages that follow, you will find many wonderful examples of how iEARN-USA is working with educators and young people around the globe to bring the world into the classroom and take action on issues that really matter. On behalf of the iEARN-USA staff and the Board of Directors, we thank you for your support and hope you enjoy our 2014 Annual Report!

Sincerely,

Mona Eraiba  
Chair, Board of Directors

Daniel Rosenblum  
Executive Director

# MISSION

The MISSION of iEARN-USA is to enable young people worldwide, working in collaboration and dialogue, to make a meaningful contribution to the health and welfare of the planet and its people.

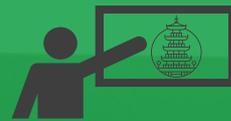
iEARN-USA is a member of iEARN (International Education and Resource Network), the world's largest, most experienced online K-12 non-profit network that enables young people worldwide to use the Internet and digital media to collaborate on educational projects.

## Statistics



**2 million youth**

collaborating together on projects



**50,000**

using technology to internationalize their classrooms.



**200**

projects designed and facilitated by educators and students



**140**

countries with iEARN programs



**30**

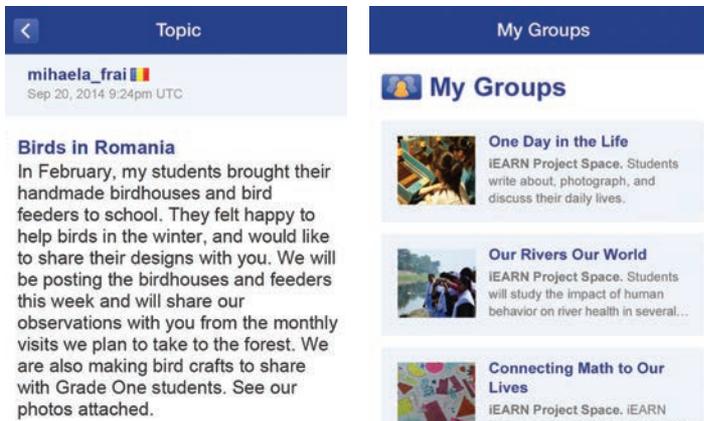
languages being used to communicate



# iEARN PROJECTS

iEARN enables educators and youth to design and collaborate on global projects as part of their regular classroom and after-school activities.

Participants use iEARN's safe and secure online Collaboration Centre for their global project-based learning activities.



## New Collaboration Centre features in 2014

In early 2014, iEARN-USA introduced a new site-wide search feature enabling participants to search all people, projects, and youth-produced media on the Collaboration Centre.

In September, to add further to the site's mobile functionality, a new Collaboration Centre iPhone app was released on the iTunes store.



Students in Taiwan create a video documentary to introduce their Global Food Show and Tell Project partners to what's in their lunchboxes.



Learn with the world, not just about it. Join interactive curriculum-based projects where students are creating, researching, sharing opinions, and becoming global citizens.

**Featured Groups:** One of the best ways to become involved is to be part of a collaborative project.

**Musical Project**  
Students invited to...  
song. P...  
possible...  
cultural...  
peace, ...  
togethe...  
images...  
product...  
view

Over 200 projects were active in iEARN in 2014 on the Collaboration Centre, including CIVICS, Connecting Math to Our Lives, Folk Tales Around the World, Finding Solutions to Hunger, Local History, Our Rivers, Our World, the Teddy Bear Project, and many more.



Participants in Puerto Madryn, Argentina send photos and "Willie the Whale" to their partners in Fisher Island, Florida to host as part of the Teddy Bear Project.



A class in Uganda reports on their field trip to a local farm as part of research for the ANIA Children's Land Project.

Curriculum-based groups in which students are becoming global citizens.

Part of a collaborative iEARN group.

### Music of the World Project

Students around the world are invited to collaborate on an original song. Participants will discuss possible themes, with a focus on cultural understanding, empathy, peace, and compassion, then work together on lyrics, music, and images for a joint music and video production.

[view group >](#)

#### Login

Username

Password

[Submit](#)

[Trouble logging in?](#)  
[Register](#)

#### Not a Member?

Connect with educators and youth across iEARN's 140 country network!

[Join Now!](#)

### National Toys Project



Students in Taiwan and Ukraine connect via Skype in the National Toys Project.

### Together With Birds Project



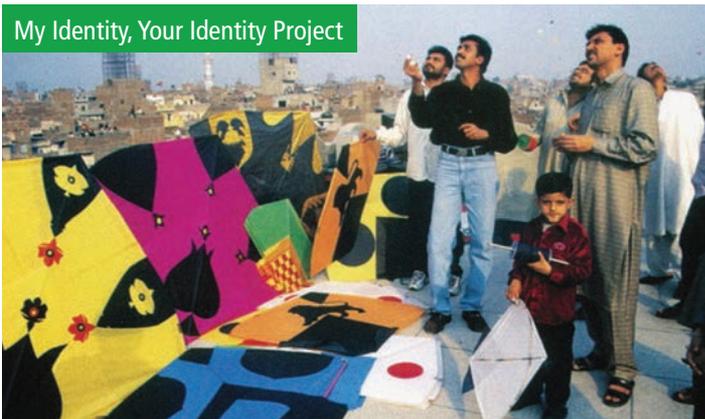
Together With Birds Project participants in Belarus share their bird feeder designs.

### Value of Friendship Project



Deaf students in Brazil share their video productions and invite hearing and deaf students globally into an online conversation on The Value of Friendship.

### My Identity, Your Identity Project



As part of the My Identity, Your Identity Project, participants in Pakistan tell the story of the Basant Kite Festival, celebrated to bid farewell to the winter season and to announce the arrival of spring.

### Solar Cooking Project



Participants in Iran experiment with new designs as part of the Solar Cooking Project.

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## EVENTS AND **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

iEARN offers both **face-to-face** workshops and **online professional development**, including courses, webinars, and online coaching, to support educators to integrate online global project work into their classrooms.

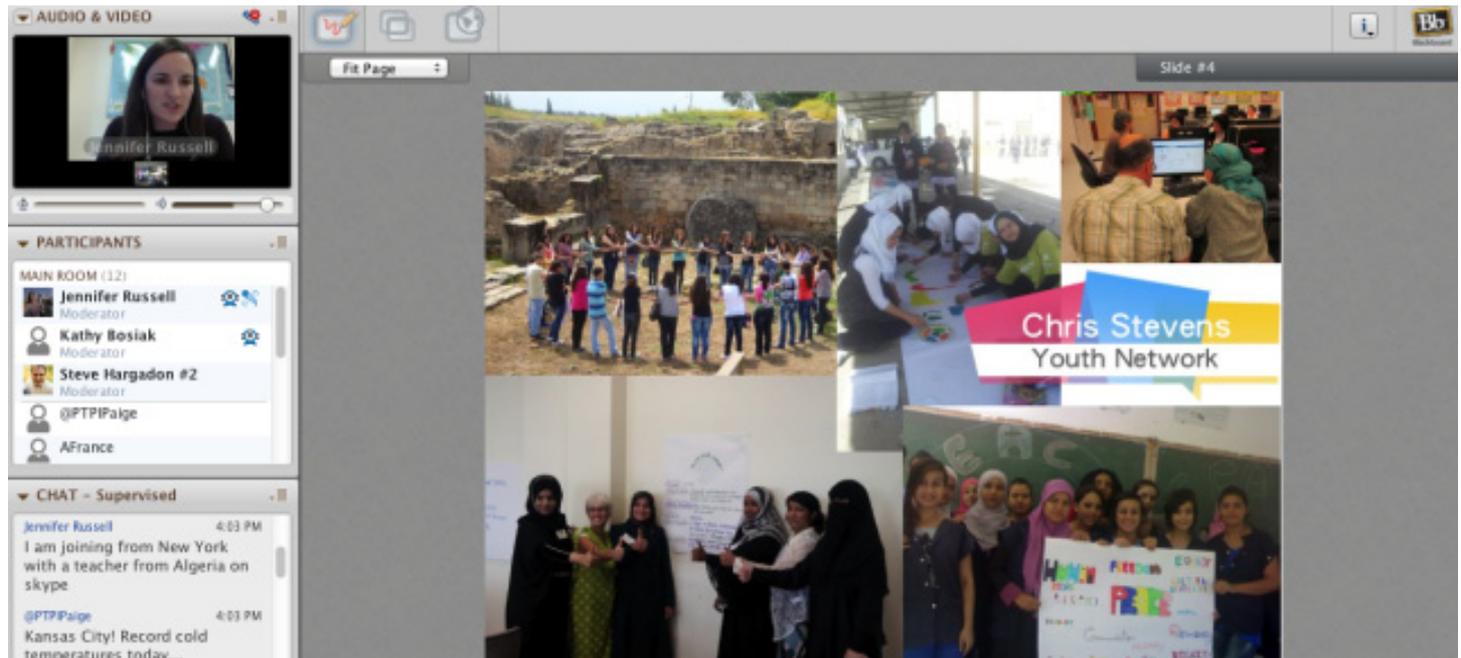
Since 1988, iEARN has equipped hundreds of thousands of educators with the technical, collaborative and organizational skills needed to participate fully in a global, collaborative Internet-based learning environment.



# ONLINE COURSES

Developed in 2001, iEARN-USA's online course program guides educators in using interactive technologies and digital media to engage their students with the world.

iEARN-USA is able to offer its core online course program at low cost to educators through the generous support of funders and partners, including the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Bureau of South and Central Asia Affairs, and the Adobe Foundation.



# EVENTS

2014 iEARN Conference and Youth Summit

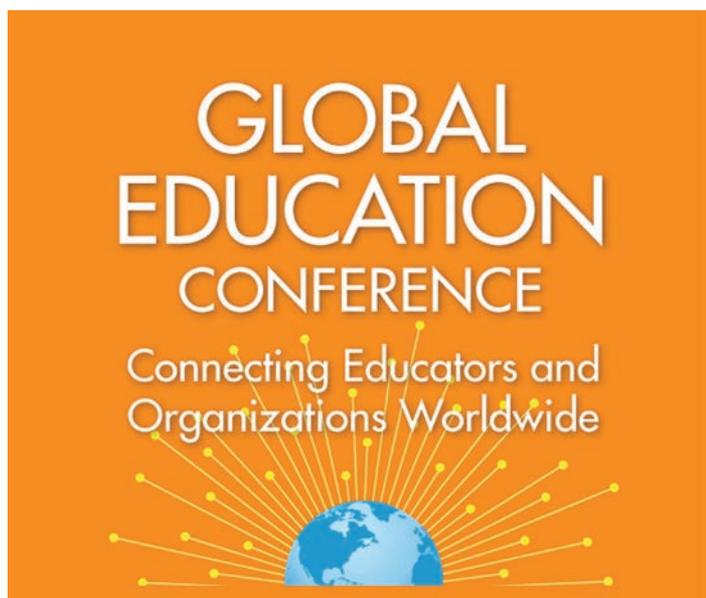


2014 iEARN Conference and Youth Summit



## 2014 iEARN Conference and Youth Summit in Puerto Madryn, Argentina, June 29-July 5

From June 29-July 5, 2014, Fundación Evolución, the NGO which supports the TELAR-iEARN network in Argentina, hosted the iEARN Conference and Youth in Puerto Madryn, in the province of Chubut, Argentina. 20 years earlier, the first iEARN Conference was organized by the iEARN-Argentina Center in this same location. The first teachers' conference in 1994 set the basis for the international iEARN network through the writing and signing of the iEARN Constitution, and consolidated the work of the pioneering teachers who had been participating for several years. From that year on, each year the iEARN Conference has been held in a different country. In 2014, the iEARN-Argentina again hosted the conference, and students and educators from around the world gathered to present and share models for using technology to build global understanding and enhance teaching and learning.



## Global Education Conference 2014

iEARN-USA was a proud partner in the fourth annual Global Education Conference, a free week-long online event bringing together educators and innovators from around the world from November 17-22, 2014. iEARN educators, youth, and other partners and innovators presented their work, sharing examples and collaborative projects related to connecting classrooms and youth programs, with a strong emphasis on promoting global awareness, fostering global competency, and inspiring action towards solving real-world problems.



MAD Day Cameroon



MAD Day Taiwan



MAD Day Tunisia



MAD Day Pakistan



MAD Day USA



MAD Day Yemen



MAD Day USA



MAD Day USA



YouthCaN 2014 Conference

### MAD (Making a Difference) Day 2014

In 2014, iEARN launched a new tradition called MAD (Making a Difference) Day. On the last Tuesday in October, iEARN youth, educators and coordinators around the world took action in their local communities through community service and sharing of their Collaboration Centre projects to motivate others to take a stand on issues that they care about. The goal of MAD Day is to put iEARN's mission of "learning with the world" and improving the state of the planet into visible practice and to raise awareness about how collective action can contribute towards positive change.

### YouthCaN 2014

In 2014, the annual conference of YouthCaN, a global youth-run organization co-sponsored by iEARN that uses technology to inspire, connect and educate people about environmental issues, was again held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

# PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

## Program Highlights

Adobe Youth Voices



Adobe Youth Voices



### Adobe Youth Voices

In 2014, iEARN-USA entered its ninth year of partnership in the Adobe Youth Voices program, the **Adobe Foundation's** global philanthropic initiative that empowers youth worldwide to comment on their world using multimedia and digital tools to communicate and share their ideas, demonstrate their potential, and take action in their communities. By the end of 2014, iEARN had trained over 1400 educators in the program, and managed youth media workshops, production, and exhibitions in Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, China, Egypt, Georgia, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Uganda, Ukraine, and the USA. In addition to hosting national Adobe Youth Voices exhibition events in cities around the world, iEARN hosted a global iEARN Adobe Youth Voices Media Festival both virtually and in-person at the 2014 iEARN Conference and Youth Summit in Puerto Madryn, Argentina.

Chris Stevens Youth Network



Chris Stevens Youth Network



### Chris Stevens Youth Network

As the founding implementing partner for the **US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs'** Chris Stevens Youth Network, iEARN-USA continued to expand the reach and impact of the program throughout 2014 to involve over 470 educators and 11,500 students in collaborative virtual exchange activities. Dedicated to the late Ambassador Christopher Stevens, the Chris Stevens Youth Network uses interactive technologies and new media to connect classrooms throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and the United States.

In 2014, iEARN-USA worked with Micro-Documentaries to produce two classroom-based videos profiling participants at Lincolnton High School in Lincolnton, NC and Pattonville High School in Maryland Heights, MO and their experiences working in iEARN and the Chris Stevens Youth Network.

# PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

## Program Highlights

U.S. Taiwan Eco-Campus Partnership



### U.S. Taiwan Eco-Campus Partnership Program

In 2014, iEARN-USA and iEARN-Taiwan teamed up to support the National Wildlife Federation on the Eco-Campus Partnership Program, made possible through a three year grant from the [International Environment Program Partnership](#) between the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(USEPA\)](#) and [EPA Taiwan \(EPAT\)](#). In its first year, the program connected educators and students in Houston, TX, Broward County, FL, New York City; New Jersey, Los Angeles in Ventura County, CA, and the Washington, DC metro area with their counterparts in Taiwan.

National Security Language Initiative for Youth



### National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)

iEARN-USA continued its partnership with the American Councils for International Education consortium to manage programming for the National Security Language Initiative Youth Program (NSLI-Y), an initiative funded by the [US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#). NSLI-Y offers more than 600 full scholarships to U.S. high school students to study abroad and learn critical languages (Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Korean, Russian and Turkish). In 2014 iEARN administered NSLI-Y programming in Korea, Morocco, India, China, and Taiwan, sending 121 U.S. students abroad for summer, semester, and year-long language immersion experiences.

## Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World



### Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World (O3) Program

iEARN-USA, iEARN-India and iEARN-Pakistan continued their partnership with the American India Foundation (AIF) to support their Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World (O3) Program, an innovative education project preparing emerging young educators and their students in India and Pakistan Punjab with the leadership and technical skills to engage in global networking and civic engagement.

O3 was made possible in part by a grant from the [U.S. Department of State's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs](#).

### Photojournalism 2.014



### Photojournalism 2.014: Heritage, Hunger, and Food Security

In 2014, iEARN continued its partnership with the [U.S. Department of State, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Office of Press and Public Diplomacy](#) on a photojournalism program linking educators and youth in Pakistan, Tajikistan, and the United States around the theme of heritage, hunger, and food security. In addition to online and face-to-face professional development for educators, webinars, and online virtual exchange activities among participating students, the program culminated with an in-person gathering and exhibition in Tajikistan with educators and students from Pakistan, Tajikistan and the U.S. coming together in person for hands-on activities and sharing of their research and photography.

## Youth Exchange and Study





**YES Alumni Webinar**  
**Making an Environmental Impact in Your Community**

**When:** Saturday, August 28 @ 9am EST  
**Where:** <http://learn.adobeconnect.com/yesenvironment>



**Aown Shahzad**

Aown is a YES alumnus from Pakistan. He has worked with UNICEF HQ as a delegate, has been published in the UNICEF State of the World's Children report, and has also participated in the UN General Assembly Summit on Climate Change. Besides this he is part of the National Council of Environmental Journalists in his country and has most recently worked as youngest employee at World Wide Fund for Nature Pakistan.

BRAC was started in Bangladesh in 1972 and is now the largest NGO in the world, managing programs around the world that work to eradicate poverty. The Disaster, Environment and Climate Change (DECC) programme works alongside the government, other non governmental organisations and the community to build resilience, foster adaptation and respond to the effects of climate change and natural disasters.





## Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program

The Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program, funded by the **US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs**, is an academic year exchange program for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim populations.

A founding partner of the program in 2003, iEARN continued its partnership in the program in 2014, including in-person YES Alumni events, virtual meet-ups throughout the year, a YES Alumni Virtual Film Festival, and a series of videos celebrating the impact of the YES program.

The videos honor the thousands who have participated in the program, including host families, host schools, host communities, partner organizations in the U.S. and overseas, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Congress and countless other supporters of the program.

iEARN manages YES programming in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Israel, Liberia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Suriname, and also advises and manages virtual exchange activities and program websites.

iEARN-USA

## **PARTNERS & FUNDERS**

have included

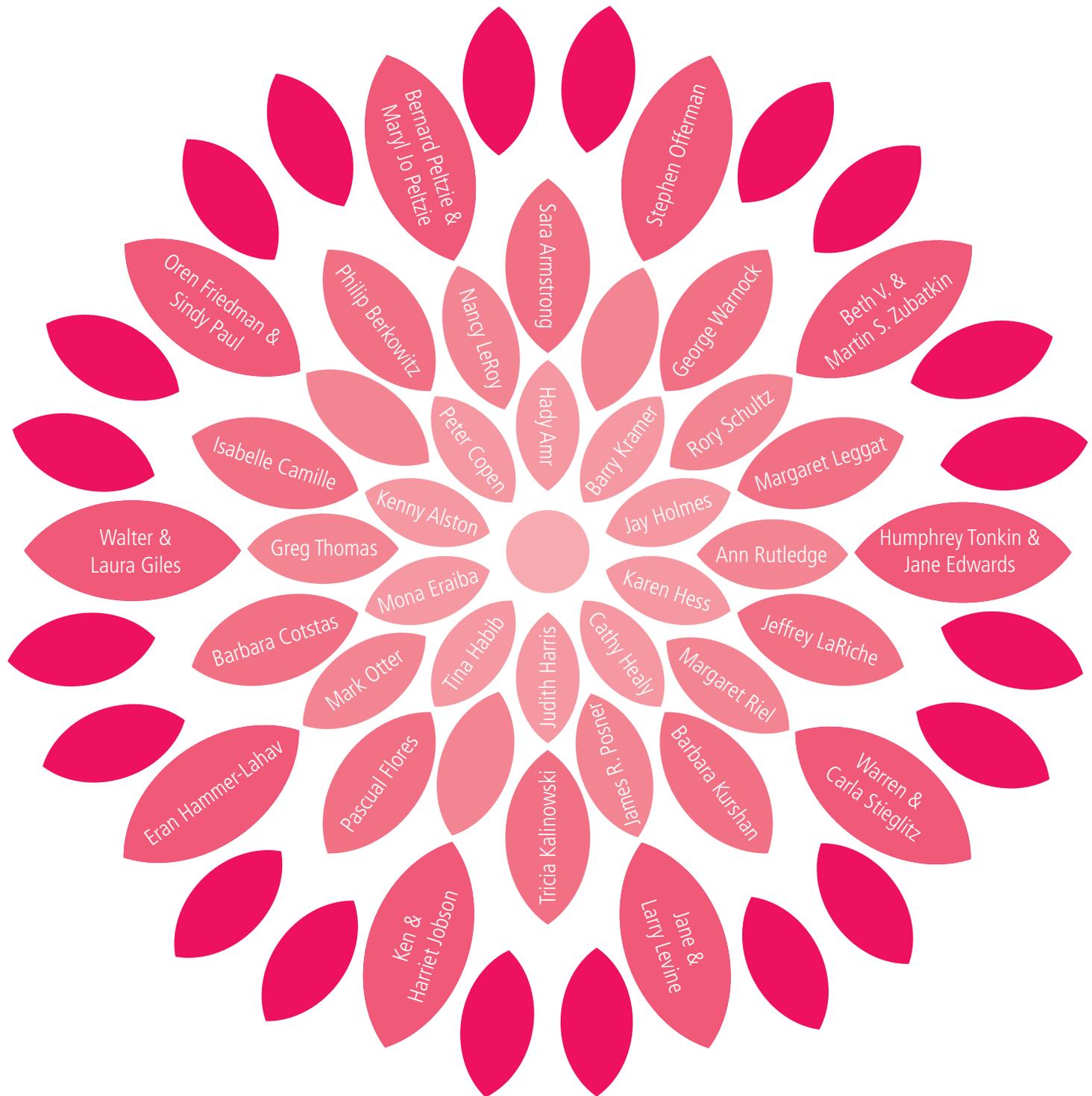


- Adobe Foundation
- AFS-USA
- American Councils for International Education
- American India Foundation (AIF)
- American Museum of Natural History
- Amideast
- Arkus, Inc.
- Asia Society
- AYUSA
- Blackboard Collaborate
- Buck Institute for Education (BIE)
- Copen Family Fund
- CSIET
- Educational Development Center (EDC)
- Global Education Coalition NYC
- Global Education Conference
- Global Nomads Group (GNG)
- Hagedorn & Co.
- Hipercept
- IRIS - Iowa Resource for International Education
- Lutz & Carr
- Minds on Design Lab
- Mobility International USA (MIUSA)
- My Hero Project
- NEA Foundation
- Posner-Wallace Foundation
- Qatar Foundation International
- Salesforce Foundation
- Soliya
- Souktel
- Teachers College at Columbia University
- U.S. Department of State
- VIF International Education
- World Learning

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# INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

Many thanks to our 2014 individual supporters and donors, including:



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## 2014 iEARN-USA Board of Directors

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## 2014 iEARN-USA STAFF



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New York, New York

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Executive Director

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Program Coordinator

### Bridget Stout

Manager, Member Services and Professional Development

### Nicole Weitzner

Coordinator, Programs and Digital Content

### Fei Zheng

Financial Controller

# 2014 iEARN-USA FINANCIALS

## Statement of Financial Position Year Ending December 31, 2014

### ASSETS

Total Current Assets	\$ 435,949
Grant Contracts Receivable	\$ 4,921,935
Accounts Receivable	\$ 7,260
Other Current Assets	\$ 76,282
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,441,426</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Total Current Liabilities	\$ 80,499
Net Assets – Board Designated	\$ 60,000
Net Assets – Unrestricted	\$ 127,969
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 5,172,958
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,441,426</b>

## Statement of Activities Year Ending December 31, 2014

### REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions and Grants	\$ 698,671
Program Service and Membership Fees	\$ 215,169
Donated program services and materials	\$ 1,741,715
Other	\$ 9,340

**Net Assets Released from Restrictions** \$ 5,073,696

**Total Unrestricted Revenues  
and Other Support** \$ 7,738,591

### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 7,344,305
Supporting Services	\$ 376,998
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,344,305</b>

**Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets** \$ 17,288

### Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Contributions and Grants	\$ 3,593,881
Net Assets released from Restrictions	\$ (5,073,696)
Reduction in project funding	\$ (131,640)

Decrease in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets \$ (1,611,455)

Decrease in Net Assets \$ (1,594,167)

Net Assets, Beginning of Year \$ 6,955,094

Net Assets, End of Year \$ 5,360,927



### **iEARN on Great Nonprofits**

iEARN is the best kept secret that should be shared with every educator that wants their students to become globally aware and involved. Educators and students are provided with a safe, but engaging platform to share and develop project based learning projects or other projects that simply facilitate global and cultural excitement among students and their teachers in a way not offered in the general curriculum! I cannot express how much the content of this group has enhanced the learning of my students and provided me with an international cadre to build friendship and professional foundations with.

**- Kathy Bosiak, Lincolnton, NC**

This is an extraordinary non-profit with an extraordinary staff and community! We have had the pleasure of partnering with iEARN over the last five years to produce a large scale virtual Global Education Conference. We are indebted to iEARN for making this event a huge success. The professionals at this organization have been wonderful to work with and they provide much needed and respected services to educators all over the globe. iEARN's impact is profound in the world of education. Through our conference and the iEARN community, It has also been amazing to watch teachers and students who participate in iEARN's programs globally. They exhibit so much growth as well as compassion and enthusiasm for making the world a better place.

**- Lucy Gray, Chicago, IL**

Read more on iEARN-USA's profile on Great Nonprofits [www.greatnonprofits.org/reviews/profile2/iearn](http://www.greatnonprofits.org/reviews/profile2/iearn)



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www.scoop.it/t/this-week-in-learn

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