



 **IEARN-USA**
ANNUAL REPORT

2015



International Education and Resource Network
Learning with the World
Since 1988

A MESSAGE FROM iEARN-USA

Dear Friend of iEARN-USA - Learning
With the World:

As we reflect upon the past year, we are excited to report that iEARN-USA's global learning work has continued to grow in scale and relevance for educators and students around the world. Those familiar with Virtual Exchange (VE), know that this is the vehicle we utilize to implement our online, global, project-based learning initiatives that are aligned with the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Here at iEARN-USA, we have seen VE grow and develop in prominence to exist side by side with physical exchange programs as part of the Alliance for International Exchange, since they both complement and reinforce one another as an indispensable piece of global citizenship.

Noteworthy highlights in our 2015 annual report include:

- The redesign of the iEARN Collaboration Centre with enhanced search, news sharing, and management features, bringing together over 1,020 educators and 3,740 students from 78 countries to connect and collaborate on global projects through our online platform.
- The creation of the SDGs and iEARN Project Integration Toolkit, aligning all iEARN projects to the 17 global goals so youth can collaborate to make a difference.
- A celebration of 10 years of youth creative media production with the Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) Program with 20 collaborative media production projects led by iEARN facilitators from 12 countries.



- The launch of the Chris Stevens Morocco-USA Youth Media Exchange program, a special pilot program from the US Embassy in Morocco to connect high schools in New York, Chicago, and Morocco through virtual exchange activities.

iEARN-USA's overarching goals are to promote empathy and engender hope amongst educators and students, and to act as a catalyst for social action in the world. The dedication and commitment of our educators around the world is the cornerstone to the success of iEARN.

As we look to 2016 and beyond, we hope to continue to empower and support these amazing educators as they connect and learn from one another and their students.

"iEARN was the first step for me to start my journey to become an international educator and connect the world through

science, education and stories." - Jihad Halawani, iEARN Palestine

"iEARN has opened my students' eyes to a world full of unique cultures beyond Florida and Latin America and has broken many of their cultural stereotypes and misconceptions. The global relationships I've built with teachers in other countries have been life changing and inspirational." - Nicolle Boujaber-Diederichs, iEARN-USA

In peace to bring our world closer together,

Tonya Muro
Executive Director

Mona Eraiba
Chair,
Board of Directors

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.

OUR APPROACH

Our approach to global education includes online collaboration through iEARN projects, professional development and global networking opportunities, and sponsored programs for educators and students to connect and learn with the world.



100+
PROJECTS



30
LANGUAGES



50,000
EDUCATORS



140
COUNTRIES



2,000,000
YOUTH

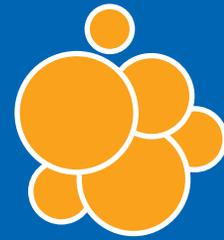
iEARN PROJECTS

iEARN enables K-12 educators and youth to design and collaborate on global projects as part of their regular classroom and after-school activities.

Over 100 projects were active in iEARN in 2015 in the Collaboration Centre, connecting classes across diverse subject areas including math, social studies, language arts, sciences, technology, music and more.



100+
PROJECTS



16
LEARNING
CIRCLES



40
DISCUSSION
GROUPS



Daffodils and Tulips, Taiwan



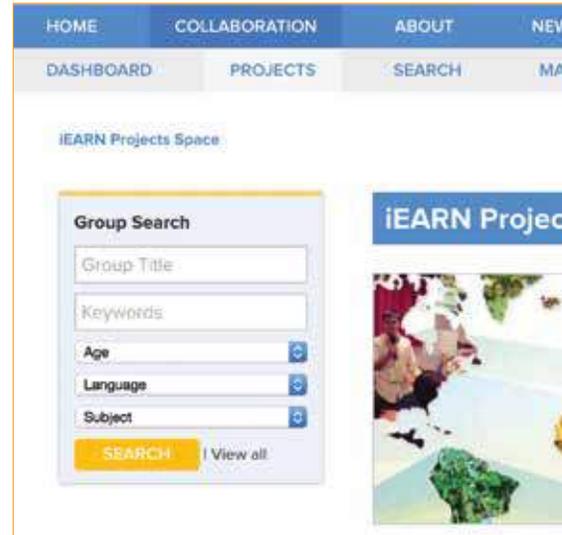
Envision my Ideal World, Uganda



Nature's Global Zoo, Mexico



Future citizens, Pakistan



ONLINE COLLABORATION CENTRE

Participants use iEARN's safe and secure online Collaboration Centre for their global project-based learning activities. In 2015, iEARN-USA launched the redesigned iearn.org website, bringing together the previously separate iEARN informational site and online platform into a single website.

The Collaboration Centre redesign features a new member dashboard to help members easily access their projects, discussion groups, and activities. The website also provides streamlined access to the global iEARN community, news, and project details.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with categories: HOME, COLLABORATION, ABOUT, NEWS & EVENTS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, and COUNTRIES. Below this is a secondary bar with DASHBOARD, PROJECTS, SEARCH, MANAGEMENT, HELP, and MY ACCOUNT. The main content area features two forum sections: 'Teachers Forum >' and 'Youth Forum >', each with a description and a 'View >' link. A 'My Groups' section is also visible. On the right, there is a 'Groups You Might Like' sidebar with search filters.

This section is titled 'Learning Circles Space'. It includes a navigation bar with 'NEWS & EVENTS', 'PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT', and 'COUNTRIES'. Below the navigation, there are links for 'MANAGEMENT', 'HELP', 'MY ACCOUNT', and 'MY PROFILE'. The main text describes the space as a place to join over 200 primary and secondary level projects, emphasizing global citizenship and collaboration. It mentions the '2015-2016 iEARN Project Book online'.

The screenshot displays a grid of six member profiles, each with a photo, name, and country flag. The members are: Dmitry Savelau (Belarus), Tommie Hamaluba (Botswana), Almerinda Garibaldi (Brazil), Mall Bickley (Canada), Jorge Valenzuela_Beltran (Canada), and Sihong Huang (China).

The logo features a globe with the text 'Global Learning Circles' and 'iEARN'. Below it, the text reads 'Learning Circles Space' and provides a brief description of the space as a highly interactive, project-based platform for global citizens.

The screenshot shows a search interface with four tabs: 'Groups Projects/Groups', 'Media Images, Videos, Files', 'Educators Find a Teacher', and 'Search All Forum, Media, Groups & Educators'. Below the tabs is a search bar labeled 'Keyword(s) Search groups'. There are also dropdown menus for 'Age Any', 'Language Any', and 'Subject Any'. At the bottom, there are 'SEARCH' and 'CLEAR FORM' buttons.

iEARN PROJECTS ALIGN TO THE U.N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Youth around the world are learning with each other through collaborative iEARN projects to make a difference in their local and global communities. In 2015, iEARN aligned its projects with the 17 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a new toolkit on the

iearn.org website. Through collective learning and action, youth are making a difference through iEARN projects that meet the global SDGs to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.



FINDING SOLUTIONS TO HUNGER, POVERTY, AND INEQUALITY + SDG 2 ZERO HUNGER

Participants research and discuss the root causes of hunger and poverty in the world and take meaningful action to help create a more just and sustainable world.



GIRL RISING PROJECT + SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY

Participants watch the “Girl Rising” film and discuss with other classes to share ideas about what they can do to make the situation of girls and education in the world and in their own country better.



EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY + SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION

Participants plan and share their action projects for the protection of the air, water, plants and animals on earth and publish their projects throughout the year.

2015 iEARN PROJECTS U.S. PARTICIPANT HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. PARTICIPATION IN TOP 6 iEARN PROJECTS

Holiday Card Exchange - 25 US schools
One Day in the Life - 11 US schools
Teddy Bear Project - 11 US schools
Finding Solutions to Hunger - 8 US schools
My Identity, Your Identity - 6 US schools

iEARN USA
2015



147
U.S. TEACHERS
PARTICIPATED



**FROM
27**
DIFFERENT
STATES



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Since 1988, iEARN-USA has equipped more than 100,000 educators with the technical, collaborative and organizational skills needed to integrate global, online collaborative projects in classrooms and after-school programs.

iEARN-USA offers face-to-face workshops and online professional development courses for educators seeking to engage their students in online global project work.



Brazil Delegation at iEARN Conference



Youth Summit Participants from Japan



Educator Workshop in Algeria



Teacher Training in Jordan

GLOBAL NETWORKING

2015 iEARN CONFERENCE AND YOUTH SUMMIT IN BRASILIA, BRAZIL

From July 26 - 31, 2015, iEARN-Brasil, Educadores Globais, hosted the iEARN Conference and Youth Summit in Brasilia. During the conference, students and educators from around the world gathered to present and and share models for using technology to build global understanding and enhance teaching and learning. The theme of the 2015 event was “Reframing ICT: Inclusion, Cross-Cultural Communication, Transformation”



GLOBAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2015

iEARN-USA was a proud partner in the fifth annual Global Education Conference, a free week-long online event bringing together educators and innovators from around the world from November 16 - 19, 2015. 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.



PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

iEARN-USA works with educational, youth service, relief and development organizations, agencies, and institutions to build a network of opportunities for young people to work together on educational programs that make a meaningful difference in the world. In partnership, we are proud to provide teacher and students online and in-person exchange, language, and multimedia opportunities.

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 for Youth Program (NSLI-Y), an initiative funded by the U.S. 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, Persian (Tajiki), Hindi, Korean, Russian and Turkish). In 2015, iEARN-USA administered NSLI-Y programming in Korea, Morocco, India, China, and Taiwan, sending 119 U.S. students abroad for summer and year-long language and cultural immersion experiences.

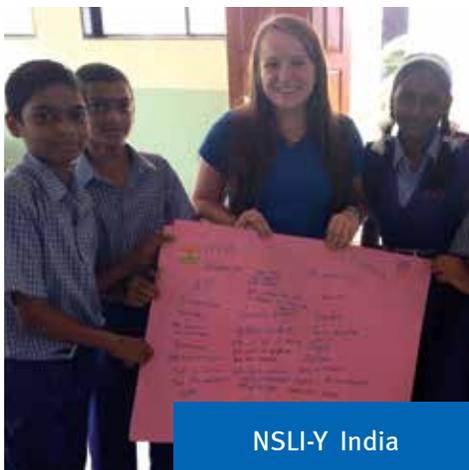
iEARN-USA continued to manage the NSLI-Y Interactive website (<http://nslly-interactive.org/>), which showcases language learning and cross-cultural experiences of students and alumni of the NSLI-Y program. As part of NSLI-Y Interactive, iEARN-USA organized six interactive virtual events connecting students abroad with youth, educators and language learners in the U.S.



NSLI-Y Korea



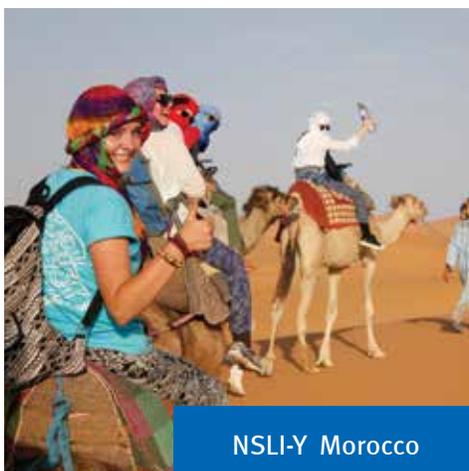
NSLI-Y Taiwan



NSLI-Y India



NSLI-Y China



NSLI-Y Morocco



NSLI-Y Korea



MOROCCO-USA YOUTH MEDIA EXCHANGE PROGRAM

iEARN-USA, MEARN, DreamYard, and Digital Youth Network implemented the Morocco-USA Youth Media Exchange Program, a pilot program through the new J. Christopher Stevens Virtual Exchange Initiative launched in October, 2015. The thematic media program brought together youth from six schools in the U.S. and five schools in Morocco for online media project collaborations on the Collaboration Centre and an in person Digital Storytelling Workshop in Washington, D.C.



As a result of the program, iEARN supported 20 students and four teachers from Morocco and 12 students and four teachers from the United States with training, tools, and resources to launch and integrate digital storytelling, virtual exchange education projects into their classrooms; and provided 14 schools with cutting-edge cross-cultural classroom resources for engaging with classes around the world through media projects.



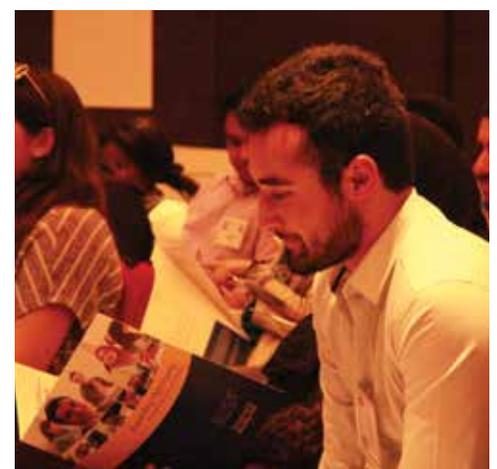
PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY (YES) PROGRAM

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program, funded by the U.S. Department of State and sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in an academic year exchange program for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim populations.

iEARN manages YES programming in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Israel, Liberia, Mali, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Suriname, and also advises and manages virtual exchange activities, program websites, and the #WhyHostingMatters social media campaign for the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

In 2015, iEARN-USA collaborated with AMIDEAST to organize a YESTalks event in Tunis, Tunisia alongside the second Alumni Association Leader Training. Similar to a TEDx event, 11 alumni were selected to share their stories about being a global citizen. iEARN-USA also organized the first Online Digital Storytelling Course with 25 participants from seven different countries in which YES alumni learned how to use multimedia to tell stories about their communities and leverage social media to create online campaigns.



ADOBE YOUTH VOICES

In 2015, iEARN-USA entered its tenth 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.

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 at the 2015 iEARN Conference and Youth Summit in Brasilia, Brazil.

In 2015, iEARN provided 20 mini-grants to project facilitators to support collaborative media production projects and exhibitions in 12 countries including Uganda, Romania, Lithuania, Moldova, Cameroon, Ukraine, Brazil, Argentina, Tunisia, India, Belarus, and Russia.



AYV Teacher Workshop in Tunisia



Student Media Presentation in Tunisia

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 in 2015 to involve over 580 educators and 14,000 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.



Student Project Presentations in Algeria



Educator Workshop in the UAE

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

Eco-Campus Partnership Program

In 2015, iEARN-USA and iEARN-Taiwan teamed up to support the National Wildlife Federation on the second year of 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 second year, the program connected educators in students in 60 schools in the U.S. with 60 schools in Taiwan for environmentally focused partnership projects.



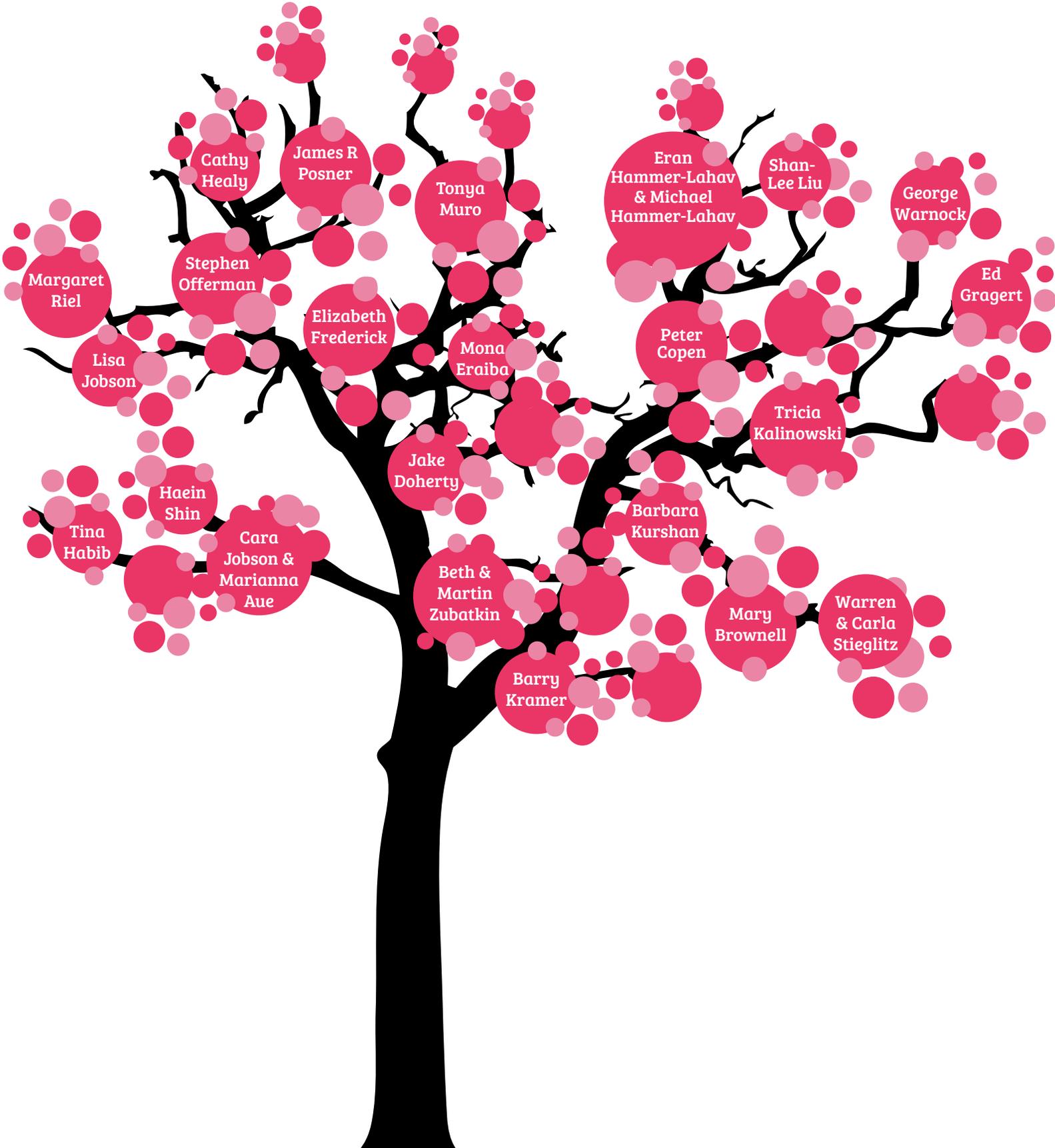
iEARN-USA

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Digital Youth Network
DreamYard
Educational Development Center (EDC)
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2015 iEARN-USA FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position Year Ending December 31, 2015

ASSETS

Total Current Assets	424,498
Grant Contracts Receivable	5,882,304
Accounts Receivable	5,300
Other Current Assets	1,700
TOTAL ASSETS	6,313,802

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Total Current Liabilities	76,724
Net Assets – Board Designated	60,000
Net Assets – Unrestricted	193,709
Temporarily Restricted	5,983,369
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	6,313,802

Statement of Activities Year Ending December 31, 2015

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions and Grants	838,724
Program Service and Membership Fees	201,380
Donated Program Service Materials	28,947
Other	(1,081)

Net Assets Released from Restrictions 3,709,429

Total Unrestricted Revenues and Other Support 4,777,399

EXPENSES

Program Services	4,347,163
Supporting Services	364,496
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,711,659

INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS 65,740

Changes in Temporarily Restricted	
Net Assets Contributions and Grants	4,519,840
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(3,709,429)
Reduction in Project Funding	-

Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 810,411
Increase in Net Assets 876,151

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR 5,360,927

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR 6,237,078





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iearn.org



The cover of the I EARN-USA 2015 Annual Report. It features a blue background with a white banner containing the text "I EARN-USA ANNUAL REPORT" and "2015". Below the banner, the address "475 Riverside Drive, Suite 450 New York, NY 10115" and the website "www.us.earn.org" are listed. The cover is decorated with colorful, hand-drawn illustrations of children and objects.