INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE NETWORK
Learning with the World Since 1988

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.” - Jehad 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.
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.

Daffodils and Tulips, Taiwan
Nature’s Global Zoo, Mexico
Future citizens, Pakistan
Envision my Ideal World, Uganda
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.
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.
**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

**147 U.S. Teachers Participated**

**FROM 27 DIFFERENT STATES**
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.
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 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.
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://nsliy-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 with youth, educators and language learners in the U.S.
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.
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, is 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.

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.
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 60 schools in the U.S. with 60 schools in Taiwan for environmentally focused partnership projects.
PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

Adobe Foundation
AFS-USA
American Councils for International Education
American Museum of Natural History
American University
AMIDEAST
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Asia Society
AYUSA
Blackboard Collaborate
Buck Institute for Education (BIE)
Copen Family Fund
CSIET
Digital Youth Network
DreamYard
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
U.S. Embassy Morocco
VIF International Education
World Learning
Many thanks to our 2015 individual supporters and donors, including:

- Warren & Carla Stieglitz
- Elizabeth Frederick
- Tonya Muro
- James R Posner
- Peter Copen
- Eran Hammer-Lahov & Michael Hammer-Lahov
- Mary Brownell
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- Stephen Offerman
- Mona Eraiba
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- Ed Gragert
- Margaret Riel
- Lisa Jobson
- Haein Shin
- Cara Jobson & Marianna Aue
- Jake Doherty
- Bart & Martin Zubatkin
- Mary Brownell
- Warren & Carla Stieglitz
- Peter Copen
- Shan-Lee Liu
- Ed Gragert
- Margaret Riel
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- Haein Shin
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- Jake Doherty
- Bart & Martin Zubatkin
- Mary Brownell
- Warren & Carla Stieglitz
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Program Manager

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Financial Controller
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<th>ASSETS</th>
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Statement of Activities
Year Ending December 31, 2015

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<th>REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT</th>
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<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
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<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Revenues and Other Support</strong></td>
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<td>Supporting Services</td>
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<th>INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</th>
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<td>Changes in Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>Reduction in Project Funding</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets, End of Year</strong></td>
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