International Education and Resource Network
Learning with the World | Since 1988
INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBAL CITIZENS

For more than 30 years young people have gained a deeper understanding of the world around them through iEARN. iEARN has pioneered the field of virtual exchange, aligned all its global projects with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, and partnered with others to provide transformational exchange opportunities for youth. As in 1988, we continue to be committed to working together to create a more interconnected, peaceful and just world.

This report shares the impact of 2017 iEARN activities and programs, including new global projects, professional development programming, and partnerships.

In our next 30 years, we will continue to expand and refine our programs and partnerships to serve a growing need for meaningful global education opportunities, curriculum, and educator training. In 2017, we set iEARN-USA’s Outcomes for Global Competence to fulfill our commitment to providing meaningful global experiences for all classrooms and communities:

1. Educators and youth will connect with and become part of a global community.

2. Educators and youth will develop and use communication skills to connect with diverse audiences.

3. Educators and youth will develop openness and respect towards people of other cultures, languages, and perspectives.

4. Educators and youth will take collaborative action to make meaningful contributions to their local and global communities.

As a partner and supporter of iEARN-USA, you play an important role in providing and sustaining transformative educational experiences for young people in the U.S. and around the world. We welcome you to join us in growing our network and opportunities in the next 30 years!
**NEW iEARN PROJECTS FOR 2017**
In 2017, iEARN-USA welcomed many new projects designed and facilitated by educators including:

**International Film Club**
This project empowers students to make a difference by reflecting on the important themes that movies and documentaries portray. Classes connect with a global partner to select a film and then engage in collaborative activities focusing on topics relevant to the UN SDGs and the film’s themes.

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“*I always find it interesting to collaborate with educators from other countries. We have many similarities but also many differences. I am really impressed by the work done by my students in the water project. They really surprised me with their creativity and scientific talent.*”
- Steve Weissburg, USA

**360 VR Cultural Exchange**
In this project, students from around the world exchange immersive 360° virtual reality imagery of their lives and communities to exchange culture and celebrate diversity, using VR apps, cameras, and headgear. Following is a 360° photo from participants in Pakistan.

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**YOUTH MAKING A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY**
All iEARN Projects are aligned with the United Nation’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Youth around the world are learning how to care for the planet and its people with their peers worldwide and making a positive impact in their local and global communities.

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**2017-2018 iEARN PROJECT BOOK**
Included in this edition are 100 K-12 global projects and eight Learning Circles designed by 119 project facilitators in 40 countries. All projects are designed and facilitated by iEARN educators and students.
**iEARN-USA EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT**

In 2017, iEARN-USA Global Education Ambassador Nicole Boujaber-Diederichs, a Social Studies teacher at Lake Nona High School in Orlando, Florida, trained a group of 30 Geography teachers in iEARN. Nicolle led workshops and mentored teachers through their first project experience. Several teachers participated in the My Identity, Your Identity Project and The Cultural Package Exchange Project and built partnerships with teachers in countries such as Oman, India and Moldova.

The teachers shared that their students thought that they would have more differences with their partners due to religious and cultural differences. Instead, they were surprised that they had so many similarities with the students in the other countries. Teachers from the training cohort felt that iEARN was an important tool to help build students’ global competencies, especially in developing empathy towards others.

“iEARN not only provides a means for students to make new friends across the globe but teaches them ways of interacting with others in a culturally sensitive way that will build bridges and not walls.”
-Nicole Boujaber-Diederichs, iEARN-USA Global Education Ambassador

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**iEARN-USA GLOBAL EDUCATION AMBASSADORS (GEA)**

iEARN-USA’s leadership program supports U.S. teachers in their growth as global educators. GEAs promote innovative global education both inside and outside the classroom through online learning between teachers and students in the U.S. and internationally. iEARN-USA Global Education Ambassadors play a key role as virtual exchange promoters and mentors. They network with, support, and guide educators in integrating virtual exchange projects into their curriculum.

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**GEAs BY THE NUMBERS**

16 GLOBAL EDUCATION AMBASSADORS in 13 U.S. States

2 GEAs received mini-grant awards to train 38 new iEARN teachers in the U.S.

11 GEAs facilitated 14 iEARN Projects & Learning Circles for the network

4 GEAs facilitated courses to support 95 new iEARN-USA members

8 GEAs attended 5 state and national conferences to promote iEARN-USA’s programs
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS

iEARN offers extensive online and in-person courses to provide educators with the skills and knowledge to successfully integrate global project-based learning into their classrooms. To check out the latest offerings visit: us.iearn.org/our-approach

ONLINE COURSES AND WORKSHOPS THROUGH THE BRIDGE PROGRAM

2017 marked the second year of iEARN-USA’s BRIDGE Program (Building Respect through International Dialogue and Global Education), funded through the Aspen Institute’s Stevens Initiative as a tribute to late Ambassador Chris Stevens.

Through the BRIDGE Program, 208 educators from ten countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the U.S. participated in iEARN’s professional development through workshops and online courses. These educators connected more than 5,540 students on virtual exchange projects that aligned with one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2017 iEARN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND YOUTH SUMMIT

iEARN celebrated another successful International Conference and Youth Summit from July 17 – 22, 2017 in Marrakech, Morocco. The convening brought together about 210 educators and 90 youth from 43 countries to build relationships, celebrate project successes, and plan new activities for the upcoming year.

Educators connected through 65 workshops, sessions, and presentations as part of the international conference and 14 sessions as part of the youth summit. The program included sessions about iEARN projects such as Staying Healthy, Girl Rising, Machinto: Hiroshima for Peace, and Hip Hop on the Spot. Presenters also organized interactive workshops on using ICT through topics such as integrating video into project work, using videoconferencing, documentaries, and photojournalism.

91% of U.S. members surveyed shared that iEARN has contributed to their professional growth.
iEARN-USA works with partners within the United States and around the globe to provide meaningful global education experiences to K-12 students and educators.

“In an ever diversifying world, it becomes more and more important to learn about each other. One of the reasons I came to Korea was to share and exchange culture and I hope that throughout the rest of my year here I can continue to do so.”

- NSLI-Y Korea Participant

**U.S. SUMMER SISTERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

In the Summer of 2017, 20 gifted and dynamic Pakistani high school girls from low to middle income backgrounds received scholarships to attend pre-college summer programs at prestigious American universities.

The exchange program has been in operation since 2013, and is part of the “Let Girls Learn” Initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of State and is administered by a consortium of partners, including American University, the Society for International Education, and iEARN-USA. Learn more at: iearnpk.org/ss/ss.htm.

**NATIONAL SECURITY LANGUAGE INITIATIVE FOR YOUTH**

iEARN-USA continued its partnership with American Councils for International Education to implement the NSLI-Y Program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. NSLI-Y provides full scholarships to U.S. high school students to learn critical languages abroad.

In 2017, iEARN-USA facilitated summer and academic year programs for 121 students to study abroad in China, India, Korea, Morocco and Taiwan.

iEARN-USA also managed the NSLI-Y Interactive website, nsliy-interactive.org, which showcases language learning and cross-cultural experiences of NSLI-Y students and alumni.

To support NSLI-Y interactive, iEARN-USA organized six virtual events that connected NSLI-Y students abroad with youth, educators and language learners in the U.S. for further cultural exchange and language learning. This year, the events focused on topics ranging from Diversity in Morocco, to Russian Language Learning Strategies, to Community Service and Volunteerism in India.
LONGVIEW FOUNDATION
The Teachers’ Guide to Global Collaboration was launched in March 2017, available at www.globaledguide.org. Funded by the Longview Foundation, this online guide is a collection of resources, projects and other opportunities for global collaboration.

“\textbf{I am not a president who can make a change. I am who I am: a 16-year-old girl. However, I believe you don’t need to be an influential person to make this world a better place. All you need is to start making an effort. As an exchange student, you define peace.”
- YES Participant, Pakistan

THE KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY (YES) PROGRAM
Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the YES program is an academic year exchange program for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim populations. iEARN manages YES programming in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Israel (Arab communities), Liberia, Mali, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Suriname, and advises and manages virtual exchange activities, program websites, social media campaigns and webinars for participants and alumni.

In 2017, iEARN-USA’s YES team coordinated programs for nearly 200 students, as well as hosted five webinars to help YES students and alumni gain professional development skills, learn how to conduct local service projects, and engage with the global alumni network. In addition, the iEARN team organized and conducted two in-person alumni workshops; the SDG 2030 Summit for West Africa brought fourteen YES alumni from seven countries together in December to develop innovative ways to work towards the UN SDGs, and the fourth annual Alumni Association Leader Training brought alumni leaders from six countries to Morocco to strengthen their leadership skills in July.
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In Memory of Dr. Tonya S. Muro

We honor the memory of Dr. Tonya S. Muro, iEARN’s Executive Director, from January 1, 2016 until March 5, 2018.

As Executive Director of iEARN-USA, Tonya led with her heart forward, dedicating her life to the advancement of global citizenship.

In Spring 2018, The Tonya Muro Leadership Award, was established to provide scholarships to educators and students who exemplify Tonya’s leadership abilities, passion for learning, and global citizenship.
The **mission** of iEARN-USA is to empower educators, young people and their communities through global collaboration and transformative learning.

The **vision** of iEARN-USA is an interconnected, peaceful and just world.

Become an **iEARN-USA Member Educator**: [us.iearn.org/join](http://us.iearn.org/join)

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