Global Collaboration
working towards a better world.

Jennifer Russell, Director of Education
Julia Heitner, Development & Communications Manager
Computer Project Links Students With Soviet Partners

Then:
1988

Now:
2018

iEARN’s Story: 30 Years of Global Collaboration

140 COUNTRIES
30 LANGUAGES
50,000 EDUCATORS
2 MILLION YOUTH
iEARN-USA’s Mission and Vision

**Vision:**
an interconnected, peaceful and just world.

**Mission:**
to empower young people, their schools and their communities through global collaboration and transformative learning.
100’s of Teacher Designed and Facilitated Projects

Global, Project-Based Learning for K-12 Classes

Connect diverse subject areas and languages: Creative and Language Arts, History and Geography, STEM

Online collaboration primarily through asynchronous interactions

Discussion forums and media sharing
How will this project improve the quality of life on the planet?
The Need for Globally Connected Teaching and Learning
SDG Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.
Building Skills
Prepare young people for increasingly complex and interconnected work environments and careers of the future. Develop skills to use technology for dialogue and collaboration.

Changing Attitudes
Increase mutual understanding, empathy and respect between cultures. The fear of the “other” when a young person is engaged in a sustained, online, intercultural learning experience.

Taking Action
Exchanges lead to an increase in number of students that collaborate to take action on global issues. Kids care about each other and develop friendships, giving global issues a new dimension and level of concern.
What Does a Global Virtual exchange Project Look Like?
Finding Solutions to Hunger, Poverty, and Inequality
Activities:

Research and discuss root causes of hunger and poverty

Keep food diaries, research calorie and nutrient intake, and compare with global partners
Activities:

Educate the school and community about the issue of hunger

Document project work through video, presentations, and photography
Collaborated as they built a foundation of shared goals to end hunger.
How can we make global collaboration a part of every student’s education?
Our Model for Teacher Professional Development
iEARN-USA is Part of a Global Network

Online Projects

Professional Development
Face-to-Face Workshops and Support and Global Online Courses

Events and Exchanges
iEARN Professional Development

Workshops
Based on individual, school or district needs around integrating online global project work into curricula.

Online Courses
Asynchronous courses linking educators around the world for network building, project integration, and standards alignment.

Conferences
The iEARN International Conference and Youth Summit gathers members and friends from around the world to celebrate collaborative project work.
What do teachers learn:
Using technology in the classroom
Preparing students for intercultural learning
Applying project based and service learning

How is the course organized:
Group learning, build professional networks
Facilitator supported
Online discussions, activities, and videoconferences
Semi annual, 4-8 week course schedule

Future Model:
Self-guided online course modules
(January 2019)
Meet JoEllen and Loubaba

JoEllen is a High School French teacher in Winchester, VA, USA

Loubaba is a High School Biology teacher in Beirut, Lebanon

This is their first time participating in an online project
JoEllen attended an iEARN workshop with 15 educators from her school in Winchester, VA.

Loubaba attended an iEARN workshop with 8 fellow educators in Beirut.
JoEllen and Loubaba met virtually for the first time in the online educators course.

For 5 weeks, they built online connections, exchanged ideas, and prepared project plans with other educators from around the world.
JoEllen, Loubaba, and their students joined the Finding Solutions to Hunger project.

“It is unfair that some have more food than they need, while others are going hungry. People are hungry for many reasons. I learned that sometimes it is poverty, but in other countries it can be uneven distribution, war, or climate issues.” - post by a U.S. student

“Voices should be listened to, words must effect souls, actions have to avoid injustice, governments ought to look deeply at people’s lives. We must stand against the hunger problem.” - post by a Lebanese student
To share their work **globally**, JoEllen and Loubaba connected their classrooms via synchronous video conferencing.

To share their work **locally**, they conducted a community Hunger Banquet, created a video on hunger, performed skits, held food drives, presented to their schools and created a hashtag to create awareness around hunger.
2016-2018

35 workshops in 11 countries

10,900 students collaborated on 5 different projects

340 teachers participated in a 6 week online course

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More than 50 local and global exhibitions of student work
Online Course Outcomes

- **Educators exchange cultural information**
  - Finding differences and understanding commonalities and shared values

- **Educators build commitment to collaboration and project based learning**
  - Find and develop partnerships with educators from around the world

- **Educators build and share digital skills**
  - Learn skills for online dialogue and collaboration
  - Build adaptability in using a variety of platforms and tools for project work

- **Learning for teaching**
  - Educators reflect and share their own learning in the training class
  - Educators build a community of support - they examine and support one another’s ideas
How can we work together to expand global citizenship education?
Online Course Collaborations
Opportunities for Collaboration

- **Partnerships**
  - Customizable online course to engage schools, teachers, and students in your community in virtual exchanges.
  - Sponsorship of virtual exchange programs and/or professional development.

- **Participation**
  - Curate your content/curriculum as a global collaborative project for iEARNers around the world to join.

- **Outreach**
  - Resource and opportunity sharing between networks.

What would benefit your organization or community?
Thank you!

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