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For more information, contact ltrent@pastfoundation.org

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PAST Foundation Awarded Excellence in Innovation by United States
Department of Education

Washington, DC, USA

PAST Foundation was recently featured in the STEM 2026 “A Vision for Innovation in STEM Education” report just released by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Innovation and Improvement dated September 2016. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Education, in collaboration with American Institutes for Research (AIR), convened a series of workshops that brought together invited experts and thought leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning to share their ideas and recommendations for an innovative future of STEM education.

Over 30 Individuals, representing a wide range of expertise, contributed to this project synthesizing key observations, considerations, and recommendations for an aspirational vision for STEM Education, or “STEM 2016.” Download the full report here:

<http://www.air.org/system/files/downloads/report/STEM-2026-Vision-for-Innovation-September-2016.pdf>.

PAST Foundation and PAST Innovation Lab were noted in the section “Flexible and Inclusive Learning Spaces” of the report and the only education non-profit in the State of Ohio mentioned. They were featured for our work drawing on the advantages of technology to expand access to high-quality STEM education, particularly in rural communities. “By utilizing tools like our Hybrid Teaching Model, problem-based learning, and real-world applied education, PAST blends culture and education to better meet the need of today’s students,” said Annalies Corbin, PhD – PAST President & CEO. “PAST’s programs deliver meaningful education to students - middle school and up while at the same time exposing them to career pathways and igniting their passions.

The PAST Innovation Lab is an educational R & D prototyping facility, located on Kinnear Road alongside the Ohio State University’s technology corridor. The organization partners with K12 schools, post-secondary institutions, as well as industry and community partners. It provides a platform where new and innovative educational ideas can be imagined, created and tested. The PAST Innovation Lab programs include immersive Learning Labs for third and fourth year high school students alongside after and out of school informal bridge programs that together accelerates STEM experiences for both students and teachers.

For 15 years, PAST Foundation has been a leader in designing STEM education for

schools across the nation, bringing transdisciplinary problem-based learning to educators and experiential programs to students.

In 2014, PAST was recognized at CGI America by former President Bill Clinton for their outstanding work, and again in 2015 for their achievements in improving education in rural America.

PAST professional development and online courses offer teachers exciting ways to bring problem-based learning to their classrooms. Bridge programs take STEM education out of the classroom for students and teachers. Our Knowledge Capture division supports all PAST endeavors with strong evidence based research. Together we holistically link learning to life.

PAST Innovation Lab is a part of PAST Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization. The Innovation Lab is an educational prototyping facility where community, industry and education come together to create the educational programs of tomorrow, today.

For more information on PAST or PAST Innovation Lab and to learn how you can connect with us, please visit <https://pastinnovationlab.org/> or contact Lori Trent at ltrent@pastfoundation.org.

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