



What Does PAST Foundation Do?

The PAST Foundation (Partnering Anthropology with Science and Technology) is a non-profit provider of STEM education, school design, and workforce development. Although deeply committed to STEM education, PAST recognizes that good education and practice encompasses more than science, technology, engineering, and math and applies to all disciplines. Meeting 21st century workforce needs from farming to robotics and from health to the arts will require technology and a systems approach in every profession.

PAST has worked with educators across the nation for the last sixteen years to deliver hands-on, real life problem solving STEM education. PAST has been a catalyst to focus STEM education on workforce development through the use of transdisciplinary problem-based learning (TPBL). In 2015, PAST was recognized by the White House as a Next Generation High School Collaborator for its work with teachers and schools to empower students to seize opportunities in today's economy and expand access to STEM teaching and learning. In the same year the Clinton Global Initiative applauded PAST's work in creating viable rural education models that insure equal STEM learning access to all students.

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In 2010 PAST published its first workbook for educators exploring the theories and methods behind problem-based learning and a systems approach. PAST championed the good practices of education and anthropological thinking creating a stepped process to help teachers create rigorous and relevant lessons. The PAST process quickly got shortened to P3 reflecting the hierarchy of critical thinking – Problems, Projects, and Products. The foundational strategies of the process, which include instructional, cultural and delivery became known as TPBL, reflecting the transdisciplinary approach to problem-based learning. TPBL challenges students to link learning to real life through hands-on activities and instruction. PAST has been able to create a 21st century educational environment by working closely with community partners, school administrators, teachers and students across the nation.

In 2015 PAST launched the Innovation Lab in Columbus, Ohio. The Innovation Lab is a research and design prototyping educational facility. Although learning laboratories are not a new concept and a number of these demonstration platforms exist across the nation, the majority—if not all— are located either in a secondary or post secondary institution. To change the conversation PAST chose to create an environment without the constraints of a school, a space where industry, education, and community can come together to design and prototype new learning environments that meet the needs of all stakeholders. The role of Innovation Lab environments, such as PAST has created, is critical to the future of successful STEM education.

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At the lab students explore a wide array of professions from Additive Manufacturing to Food Science and from Health to Digital Arts. Currently, the Innovation Lab hosts **five** industry-driven learning laboratories – Bodies, Design, Digital, Energy, and Growth. The Learning Labs are a hotbed of collaboration with industry,



education and community partners who help design curriculum, find internships, and establish mentoring opportunities that are meaningful and rigorous. The Learning Lab programming targets all learners: students interested in math and science as well as those who prefer the humanities and arts in order to prepare all students to be productive, successful members of the workforce. Learning Labs provide students with college and career opportunities strengthening the pipelines to successful futures.

PAST's new S-Series combine the PAST Hybrid teaching model and learning lab immersive experience. Like the Learning Labs, the S-Series – Stiff, Sprocket, Signals, Surge, and Sprouts have multiple program components including a college readiness course, a hybrid taught TPBL course that covers all four core content areas simultaneously through a holistic approach, and CTE courses that provide technical certificates. The S-Series target students who need an extra step to attain early college readiness.

To support systemic transformation PAST programs also provide informal programming for students, professional development for school administrators and teachers, and the evaluative evidence based research to support all the foundation's work. PAST Summer Bridge immersive experiences, Design Challenges, and the after school Innovators Club introduce students from across Ohio and the US to Design Thinking and problem solving. These informal STEM educational programs enhance what students learn in the classroom and accelerate student transition from traditional learning systems to problem-based learning that demands the application of scientific principles. The PAST Innovation Lab programs are passionately committed to preparing the next generation to meet industry demands in the STEM workforce.

A national leader in STEM professional development, and evidence-based research, PAST continues to work closely with national and state organizations in defining the emerging educational landscape of this century. PAST dynamically explores potential learning streams and partnerships that define burgeoning industries and pathways to post secondary and workforce development. The divisions of School Design & Strategy, Online Learning, and Evidence-based evaluative research provide a wide array of on-site and online professional development for teachers and administrators helping chart actionable pathways to change and transformation. With a strong cultural focus the professional development and research help educators target resonance with community issues and actively collect data that allows administrators, teachers and students to benchmark change. This holistic approach makes it easy for teachers to get the ongoing professional development they desire, experience success and grow confidence in new strategies and skill sets.

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The holistic approach through formal and informal programming as well as professional development provides a large collection evidence-based research, from which we can learn and evolve. The commitment to excellence supports the willingness and ability to imagine, prototype, and drive new ways of engaged learning and teaching powered by technology, design thinking, and partnerships. In the past sixteen years the PAST team has reached out with programs, training and research across 29 states, 146 School Districts, and 15,000 teachers impacting over 143,000 students. The exciting news is that we are just getting started.