The contributor for this issue of Parent Perspectives is Lisa Quintana. Lisa is an alumna from the Arizona Affiliate. Lisa now lives and coaches in Texas and serves on the FPSPI Board of Trustees.

Note: This article is geared toward students, alumni, and FPSers, but we have included it in our Parent Perspectives newsletter because we know parents play such an important role in guiding their FPS students.

The STAND OUT Future Problem Solving Student

You have the advantage...NOW is the time to utilize it! Whether applying for college or looking for a job, the competition seems to be getting stronger and therefore, it is critical that you stand out among the competition. In order to do so, it is important to understand what the interviewer is looking for in prospective university students or employees. Trends over the last several years are clear in what skill sets are going to help certain individuals stand out among the rest. In January 2018, Google announced that research found that top characteristics that drove success in its organization were all soft skills: "Being a good coach; communicating and listening well; possessing insights into others (including others different values and points of view); having empathy toward and being supportive of one's colleagues; being a good critical thinker and problem solver; and being able to make connections across complex ideas." In 2016, the World Economic Forum announced the skills they anticipate will be the top skill sets needed in the workforce in 2020. Through their studies, they concluded "that a wide range of occupations will require a higher degree of cognitive abilities—such as creativity, logical reasoning and problem sensitivity ".

As a Future Problem Solving alumni, the skills these employers are looking for have been not only learned, but practiced as you have applied them to many different situations when given a new topic and future scene. Even without any “work” experience, you can highlight what you practiced in FPS as an example of how to you can be a successful student or employee!

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Pictured is contributor, Lisa Quintana, with her students at the 2018 Texas State Bowl.
In a survey conducted by Future Problem Solving Program International, alumni highlighted that FPS taught them the following invaluable skill sets:

- Researching and information gathering
- Ability to identify and solve problems
- Critical thinking/ability to analyze important information
- Ability to work in a timed/pressured environment
- Team work/collaboration
- Written communication
- Public speaking and presentation skills
- Evaluation and decision making
- Creativity and innovation
- Ability to look at the "Big Picture"/how issues affect broader categories/divisions

Alexandra Scott, FPS Alum and graduate student for a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics/Genomics commented, “Looking back, FPS was invaluable in my path to becoming a scientist. Many of the skills required for the FPS process are also required in my current field.”

Sharon Bledsoe stated, “The six-step process is a lifelong guide to making wise decisions. The thinking strategies and team work are critical leadership skills that will benefit one throughout life. Future studies are a fascinating way to understand our changing world. I felt I was always growing in knowledge and skills. This program turns victim into creators.”

Have you highlighted these skill sets and experience on your resume for college or job opportunities? These skills are very important and can be applied to any field of study. Before interviewing or applying, think about how these skills you have developed can demonstrate your ability to positively impact the role. Communicate this during your interview or on your application. Doing so may be the key to proving how invaluable you can be!

Articles Mentioned:

Google finds STEM skills aren’t the most important skills, Jan 5, 2018, [http://michiganfuture.org/01/2018/google-finds-stem-skills-arent-the-most-important-skills/](http://michiganfuture.org/01/2018/google-finds-stem-skills-arent-the-most-important-skills/)


Alumni Comments: From Future Problem Solving Program International survey conducted October 2014.
News from our Executive Director, April Dennis:

As a parent of a student in FPS, I experience the benefits of our program both as a mom and as a professional with the organization. The Parent Perspectives newsletter offers a variety of experiences and it a vital resource to our parents – thank you for reading!

The International Office is pleased to announce our 2019 site for the International Conference. We will convene at UMass in Amherst, Massachusetts from June 5-9, 2019 to celebrate the champions who worked through the program all year. While not all FPSers will venture to the International Conference – all FPSers will gain skills as they experience problem solving through our program.

Please follow us on Facebook and keep in touch—you are the backbone to our success!

Are You Interested in Scenario Performance?
Students from Houston’s Bellaire High School initiated an interesting way to learn about this exciting component!

Future Problem Solvers Club
December 5th, Bellaire High School’s Future Problem Solvers Club held a Scenario Performance Workshop on campus. David Rainey, the Executive Artistic Director of The Landing Theatre Company, Brendan Bourque-Sheil, the Literary Associate for The Landing Theatre, and Rebecca Rock, a sophomore at HSPVA, shared their professional knowledge and experience with the students. The students had hands-on practice with script writing, storytelling, and acting. Many of them said that the biggest thing they learned was how to address audience awareness. Scenario Performance can develop and sustain the oral tradition of storytelling, as well as critical thinking skills. Consider giving Scenario Performance a try!

The Parent Outreach Committee has been on hiatus for a few months. We are now back at work and plan on distributing a quarterly newsletter. Please submit your ideas, suggestions, comments and testimonials to Cyd Rogers at rogers.cyd2@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!