Mission

To develop the ability of young people globally to design and achieve positive futures through problem solving using critical and creative thinking!

We operationalize our mission by conducting a dynamic international academic program involving thousands of students annually from around the world. Creativity pioneer Dr. E. Paul Torrance's vision and research provides the foundation for our competitive and non-competitive programs via a six-step model which teaches critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and decision making.
A Message from the Director and President

Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) is alive, well, and problem solving every day! During this difficult year, we focused on helping young people learn the skills they need to solve problems using critical and creative thinking. Our program has found new ways to serve students where they are, in-person or virtually, in classrooms or at home, in teams or as individuals, through extra-curricular activities sponsored by schools, parents, or student-driven initiatives. We are nimble, durable, and focused on our mission.

We are able to conclude this year on such a positive note because of the incredible support we have received along the way -- from our dedicated volunteers who took on tasks with no remuneration, the United States CARES Act, generous FPS supporters, and our committed staff. Many other non-profits are still struggling, and in many of our areas, the pandemic is still raging. We are, today, poised and resolute to face the challenges of another year, and this is a credit to our advocates and allies, and those we serve.

The June 2021 (virtual) International Conference hosted 1,416 problem solvers from 11 countries across the globe – Australia, China, India, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, and 30 states across the U.S.A. These 4th-12th grade students earned a coveted invitation to the conference through local qualifying competitions, demonstrating their ability to apply critical analysis, creativity, futuristic thinking and research to the creative problem solving process. Three of our four competitions had a record number of participation – the largest groups since the program’s inception in 1974.

Yes, the pandemic is still causing uncertainty. As our finances rely on in-person events, we are embarking on diversifying our income streams. We ask all of you who love Future Problem Solving to help us in our efforts to empower young people to create a better tomorrow. Please reach out to individuals or corporations you know who could support our work -- in small or large ways -- and put them in contact with us.

To those of you who have already donated: Thank you! To the students we serve, the educators and parents we support, and the many volunteers all over the world who promote the work of FPS, we express our utmost appreciation for your commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,
Arjen Hicks and April Michele

2020-21 Board of Trustees

FPSPI is led by an enthusiastic and active Board of Trustees who share their insights and expertise to help advance our mission. Their perspective and collective decades of experience are critical to enabling our ability to provide the highest level of educational experience to the students in FPS.

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Affiliate Director - GA FPSP

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Alumnus - PA FPSP

Erwin Hosono
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Founder and Executive Director of Teach the Future

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Drew Trimble
Secretary
Alumnus - KY FPSP
"It’s been 15 years since I entered my first FPS classroom with intrigue, followed immediately by awe and intractable attraction. Why do I still take my daily dose of FPS? I think it’s because the program is more than just a transient test of knowledge and skill. It develops a lifelong mindset and entirely new outlook through which we can see the world. No longer do problems envelop the globe, rather opportunities do: moments that are ready for positive, sustainable change."

—Dylan Sherman, FPS Australia Alumni, now Coach, Evaluator, Future Scene Writer, Committee Member, Lecturer and PhD Candidate at University of Oxford
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## Student Participation

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<td>West Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
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1 – Includes the regions of China, Arizona, New Hampshire, Maryland, UAE, UK, Pakistan, and India

2 – Mentored by North Carolina

### Total Participation*

**15,418**

*Does not include those who use the curriculum in the classroom and choose not to formally compete.*
Annual Topics of Study

Each year, students study topics in the following strands: Business & Economics, Social & Political, and Science & Technology.

Our topics holistically support many of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as Goal 1: Poverty, Goal 2: Hunger, Goal 3: Health, Goal 10: Reduced Inequality, Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Our students span the globe in both Northern and Southern Hemispheres, therefore different topics are offered to meet varied schedules.

Topics: Southern Hemisphere

- International Travel
- Sleep Patterns
- Gamification
- Living in Poverty

Topics: Northern Hemisphere

- Youth in Competitive Sports
- Wearable Technology
- Human Environmental Impact
- Personalized Medicine

Virtual International Conference 2021

Topic: Neurotechnology
2021 Virtual International Conference

June 9-14, 2021

Celebrating over 47 years of problem solving with students from around the globe

Competitors experience the highest level of problem solving utilizing critical and creative thinking as designed by Dr. E. Paul Torrance in 1974.

203 GIPS Teams
Over 800 Problem Solvers

114 GIPS Individuals

47 Scenario Performers

138 Scenario Writers

63 CmPS Projects
Participated in the CmPS Showcase

1,416 Participants
At IC 2021 from 11 different countries

Visit us at fpspi.org
Kimberly Bress is a proud alumna of the Future Problem Solving Program. As a testament to the benefits of FPS, Kimberly shared her journey and current career aspirations during our International Conference Opening Ceremony. Currently, Kimberly is a medical student at Vanderbilt University, pursuing a dual MD-PhD degree through the NIH Medical Scientist Training Program. Through her experiences in various laboratories, working with many different mentors, she has seen first-hand how problem solving is the force which pushes research forward!
Outreach

National Youth Leadership Council

April, 2021 - Presentation on Linking Leadership and Service by April Michele

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)

November 2020 - Virtual Conference
April Michele presented sessions on Storytelling and Elizabeth Coyle, Program Director on Project Based Learning

UNESCO - Futures Literacy Summit

December, 2020 - Virtual presentation with Dr. Peter Bishop of Teach the Future, April Michele, and FPS Alumni on the importance of futures thinking

Guidestar

GuideStar connects donors and grantmakers to non-profit organizations. Achieved Gold Status
Creating the Future Scholarship Honorees

**Anjika Jain - Michigan**

Anjika participated in a wide range of FPS activities and leadership roles. A notable contribution is her creation of Bridge the Gap – providing opportunities to those with disabilities. Her goal is to bridge the gap between kids with and without special needs. Over the past 4 years, she hosted over 40+ after-school events, created her high school’s first Special Olympics Unified Team, and collaborated with her City’s Event Coordinator to create inclusive activities at city-sponsored events. She ultimately created an app that helps children with autism achieve essential social and cognitive tasks. When she won the Congressional App Challenge, she credited FPS for creativity and ability to develop various solutions for one overarching issue.

**Hannah Schleibinger - Illinois**

Throughout her Future Problem Solving experiences, she has participated in six international competitions. Hannah maintains a commitment that it fosters a new generation of problem solvers within her community. Hannah’s years of competing within Future Problem Solving at the affiliate and international level has provided multiple unique advantages that many teenagers do not receive: the opportunity to engage in diverse relationships and education on worldwide curriculum differences. It has opened her eyes to life outside of Illinois and her high school: a world full of creative thinkers, collaborators, and those willing to go the extra mile to create successful futures!

**Kate Wang - California**

FPS changed Kate’s mindset and how she approaches problems in real life. After learning that widely used pesticides in San Diego County (California, USA) parks and schools may be linked to cancer, she teamed up with a few high school students and founded the Non-Toxic San Diego Youth Action Team to advocate for change. Her team presented their findings to a City Councilmember and recommended replacing toxic pesticides with organic alternatives in public parks and schools without an increase in costs. FPS has equipped her with the powerful tools to tackle these complex issues and create solutions to help her community.
Initiatives

FPS Academy

August 2020 student session on Terraforming and September 2020 coach training

Renzulli Learning

Interactive and collaborative virtual sources are available for current and past topics on Renzulli Learning. A Community Problem Solving platform will be released this fall.

Participate

Several coaches joined and took part in discussing our Coaches’ Collaborative community of practice. Coaches were able to ask each other questions and connect with IO staff throughout the year.

3D Virtual Platform IC 2021

FPSPI’s 3D virtual platform provided access to many virtual collaborative experiences as well as participant competitions. Several speakers shared sessions with students, and collaborative sessions included events such as the Thinking Tools Workshop, Senior Forum, and Topics Think Tank.
Social Media Presence

FPSPI uses several social media channels to communicate and share our story. Social media is an ever-changing medium as diverse as all FPS’s participants are. Here are some of our most used platforms and how we use them.

**Facebook**
Future Problem Solving Program International @fpspi
FPS in the news, CmPS project profiles, topic info, and event updates

**Twitter**
@twitter.com/fpspi
Quick updates from FPS events

**Linkedin**
Future Problem Solving Program
FPS increases engagement between Affiliates by sharing posts, informative articles, and making connections with similar programs and professionals using the interconnected network.

**YouTube**
Future Problem Solving Program International
Video from FPS events, champion performances, and student testimonials

**Instagram**
Future Problem Solving Program International @fpspi1974
We use our Instagram channel to share photos from FPS events.

**TikTok**
IC 2021 Service Project
**Future Fashion** - Saving the Planet One Runway at a Time!
Supporters created something new from old clothing and were encouraged to video the process and submit it on TikTok.

#problemsolved
Volunteers

In addition to assisting Affiliate Programs through the year, hundreds of volunteers dedicate time to share their expertise with participants at the International Conference.

Volunteers fill the vital roles of:
- Evaluating written work
- Judging performances
- Assisting with competitions
- Interacting with students at events
- Organizing student activities
- And many other crucial needs

Volunteers are the backbone of FPSPI and a testament of the value of our program!

By the Numbers

165 Volunteers
Over 4,810 hours of donated time at the International Conference

Thank you!
Alumni Connections

Newsletter
The FPS Alumni Network newsletter is published with updates on events and how to get involved.

Facebook
The alumni Facebook page, Facebook.com/FPS-Alumni-Network, is constantly updated with news, reminders of the past, and great pictures.

International Conference (IC)
Alumni had a large presence at IC, serving as evaluators, coaches, volunteers, and presenters of awards.

FPS Alumni in Action

“20 years ago, I had no idea that one day I would find myself spending a year working in Antarctica ... let alone that I would go back again only one year later. But I already knew that I wanted to do something big, exciting, and unique. Without knowing exactly where I wanted to end up, I studied languages because I wanted to explore the world, science because I cared deeply for the environment, and many activities ranging from music and martial arts to Future Problem Solving because I enjoyed them and I knew that they would provide me with skills and confidence that I could carry with me forever. FPS taught me that we can come up with creative ways to solve the problems that humans have created.”

— Meganne Wyatt, Future Problem Solving Program Alumni
How Can You Help?

Prior to 2021, our 47 year old organization had been self-sustaining with our International Conference generating revenue for the operation of the program.

With the cancellation of the in-person event, and pivoting to an all-virtual event, we were unable to generate our required revenue. While we did have some funds in investment accounts and received assistance from the PPP, the loss of the in-person event is causing us to seek donations to sustain the coming year.

Here Are Some Great Ways That You Could Help:

Consider Donating Via This Link:  
https://www.fpspi.org/donate/

Host a Facebook Fundraiser  
to benefit Future Problem Solving Program International

Share Our Work With Corporate Donation Programs  
connect with april@fpspi.org