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 - thank you for your role in our success! Our June 2022 hybrid International Conference hosted over 1,600 problem solvers from 8 countries across the globe – Australia, China, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, and the USA. 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. This annual report covers the events, successes, and actions from the 2021-22 fiscal year.

We are nimble, durable, and focused on our mission. 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. Our curriculum is now available for students to learn and collaborate on our virtual classroom platform, the FPS Academy. Our students also have access to FPSOnline - a custom built platform for students to collaborate, complete the six-step problem solving process, and submit their work. This platform has built-in assessment features for our trained evaluators to provide feedback to students using authentic rubric-based models. FPSPI is uniquely positioned with decades of research and intellectual property to not only enhance the student experience but equip today’s students with transferable skills for their future.

For the immediate future, we are committed to our continuation of serving our students “where they are”! 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 FPSPI, we express our utmost appreciation for your commitment to our mission serving students.

Sincerely,
Matt Boyas and April Michele

2021-22 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.

Matt Boyas
President
Alumnus - PA FPSP

Argen Hicks
Vice President, Secretary,
Accreditation Co-Chair
Affiliate Director - GA FPSP

Erwin Hosono
Treasurer, Finance Chair
Board President - CA FPSP

Robyn Duda
Accreditation Co-Chair,
Strategic Planning Advisory Chair

Laurel Peterson
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Affiliate Director - NJ FPSP

Sarah Sumners
Personnel Chair

Julie Styan
Policy Chair
Co-Affiliate Director - NZ FPSP

Shefa Sikder
Board Member
Alumnus - KY FPSP

Rachel Wolf
Board Member
Alumnus - CO FPSP
The Dr. E. Paul Torrance Beyonder Award may be presented to 1 community project each year that epitomizes all of the creative, futuristic, and passionate characteristics that can be observed through the project’s impact and its potential for meeting the needs of the worldwide community – no matter where that community may be. The 2022 Beyonder Award was presented to Lauren Scott, from Kentucky, USA.

“The Ending Period Poverty Project (E.P) strives to bring about relief efforts to those undergoing the pressures induced by experiencing period poverty. The project’s work educated the community by meeting with organizations, such as our Youth Service Advisory Council and our Students Offering Support group, and hosting seminars to distribute information about period poverty and how it affects individuals. The project increased efforts for adequate access to menstrual products, washing stations, and waste management. The Ending Period Poverty Project is much more than a problem-solving solution, it is a noble purpose, a passion project, and a life-changing experience all in one.”

- Lauren Scott
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critical thinking

problem solving
decision making
Participation

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1 – Mentored by Alaska
2 – Includes the regions of China, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Norway
3 – Mentored by North Carolina

Total Participation*  
14,174

* 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 Poverty, Hunger, Health, Reduced Inequality, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Responsible Consumption and Production.

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

Southern Hemisphere

Youth in Competitive Sports
Wearable Technology
Human Environmental Impact
Personalized Medicine

Northern Hemisphere

Water Supply
Building Green
Insects
Mining

International Conference 2022

Topic: Antibiotic Resistance
IC 2022
Hybrid International Conference

June 8-12, 2022

Celebrating over 48 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.

196
GIPS Teams
Over 800 Problem Solvers

80
GIPS Individuals

36
Scenario Performers

106
Scenario Writers

54
CmPS Projects
Participated in the CmPS Showcase

1,338
Participants
At IC 2022 from 8 different countries
Conference Sponsors

Institute of Competition Sciences

Since 2012, the Institute of Competition Sciences has been defining best-practices in competition strategy, design, and operations. We aim to spark a new level of community engagement in science, technology, and education by supporting a global network of educational competitions.

www.competitions Sciences.org

Riker Danzig LLP is a law firm in the state of New Jersey. Founded in 1882, it is among the state’s oldest firms. The firm is based in Morristown, New Jersey and also has offices in Trenton, New Jersey, Roseland, New Jersey and New York City.

www.riker.com

Participating Countries

Australia  China  New Zealand

Pakistan  Singapore  Thailand

Turkey  United States

International Conference Keynote: Joshua Neubert

CEO of Institute of Competition Sciences

Mr. Joshua Neubert has extensive experience managing entrepreneurial non-profit organizations, incentive prize competitions, educational programs, and startup enterprises. In 2012, he founded the Institute of Competition Sciences to create an online community and support system for academic competitions. His passions center on accelerating science, technology, and learning to make the world a more knowledgeable and inspiring place. Through the Institute of Competition Sciences, Mr. Neubert developed the Summit on Incentivized Innovation, launched the first collaborative community for challenge-based-learning, and helped develop and manage high-profile prizes providing over $13,000,000 in awards through partnerships with NASA, the Cleantech Open, Lemelson Foundation, Ideas42 and the Robinhood Foundation, Goodwill, Duke University, the Methuselah Foundation, the Actuarial Foundation, and many others. Mr. Neubert has been instrumental in developing STEM curricula eaching hundreds of thousands of students.
Fiscal Responsibility

HOW OUR DOLLARS SUPPORT OUR MISSION

REVENUE

EXPENSES

Guidestar

GuideStar connects donors and grantmakers to nonprofit organizations. We achieved "PLATINUM" Status this year, our prior status was "GOLD".
Creating the Future Scholarship Honorees

Isabella Colindres - Florida
Isabella is an accomplished FPSer winning many awards at the Affiliate and International levels. She is a participant in all of the components of FPS. Isabella describes the impact FPS has on her life. "The topic It’s All in the Genes from 2016 introduced me to genetics. Learning how DNA could be modified piqued my interest in biology. I then decided to focus on biology in the International Baccalaureate program. Last year, personalized medicine became my favorite topic. The idea that the human genome could be studied to create custom-built treatments is fascinating. Personalized medicine became my topic for my scenario writing piece and my scenario performance."

Darren Chan - California
Darren is an accomplished FPSer advancing to the Affiliate level every year he competed. Darren also evaluates for California. Darren describes the impact FPS has on his life. "I fell in love with the State Bowl GIPS topic of Personalized Medicine. Personalized medicine seemed to appeal to me in just the right places. An emerging medical model, it leverages minute interactions between drugs and genes to create cutting-edge treatments, but faces both economic and social hurdles to implementation including underrepresentation of racial minorities in clinical trials. In college, I hope to major in biomedical engineering to study both genomics and pharmacology."

Brianna Reilly - New Jersey
Brianna has been a competitor in both team and individual Global Issues. Currently, she serves her Affiliate as a coach and evaluator. Brianna describes the skills she learned from FPS. "FPS had given me an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, and the belief that I one day could be one of the scientists that developed the latest medical technology in the topic suggested readings. Cognizant of everything that FPS gave me, I wanted to share its wonders with others, so I began working as a volunteer coach within the same school district I began my journey in FPS at. It was incredible to see the wonder in the eyes of my students as they delved into research topics they found passions within, and as they searched for solutions to real world challenges."
Engagement

FPS Academy

Our FPSAcademy offers students and coaches asynchronous learning experiences on a digital platform. Instructional videos, collaborative activities, and multimedia research opportunities engage students in our program through this e-learning solution.

Renzulli Learning

Interactive and collaborative virtual sources are available for current and past topics on Renzulli Learning. Since Renzulli Learning has a broad educational scope, our Future Problem Solving materials reach new interest via their platform.

Participate

Participate is Future Problem Solving’s collaborative platform for our leadership team’s engagement and learning. Specific support materials and discussion boards provide our directors with program materials and a platform to engage in sharing best practices for running local programs.

FPSOnline

Our custom built competition platform, FPSOnline, continues to offer our students and evaluators a platform to work together on projects, submit work for evaluation, and receive authentic assessment and feedback from our certified evaluators.
Social Media Presence & Conference App

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. We also implemented our first conference app using Whova with great success and feedback.

**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
Videos 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.

**Whova**
IC 2022 Conference App

**IC 2022 Event Stats:**
- App Downloads: 682
- Messages Sent: 5,583
- Community Topics: 47
- Photos Submitted: 542
- Meet-ups Created: 30
- Sponsor Impressions: 153,748

#problemsolved
Volunteers

In addition to assisting Affiliate Programs through the year, hundreds of volunteers dedicate time to share their expertise with FPSPI and 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

145 Volunteers

Over 8,100 hours of donated time to the students and activities of FPSPI - does not include the additional countless hours donated during local events!

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

When I started competing in Future Problem Solving, I had no idea it would continue to be a significant part of my life. I was involved with FPS as a student participant, an evaluator, a member of the Iowa Board, and a member of the FPSPI Board of Trustees. I had to resign my seat on the Board of Trustees when I was appointed by the Governor of Iowa in 2021 as a district judge. I use the skills I developed through FPS every day in my career. As a judge, I make difficult and important decisions on a daily basis.

On any day, I may be ruling on an evidentiary issue in the middle of a jury trial, deciding whether to sentence a criminal defendant to prison or probation, determining the constitutionality of a law, or deciding whether children in the middle of a divorce should live with one parent or the other. I take seriously the responsibility to be part of a judicial system that strives to achieve justice in each and every case according to the law. There is no doubt that my decision-making process is guided by what I've learned through FPS. FPS truly teaches people how to think, and that is valuable not just for lawyers and judges, but for any career path.

— Justin Lightfoot, Future Problem Solving Program Alumni
How Can You Help?

Prior to 2022, our 48 year old organization had been self-sustaining with our International Conference generating revenue for the operation of the program.

With the cancellation of our complete in-person events in 2020 and 2021, and pivoting to virtual and hybrid events, we were unable to generate our required revenue. While we did have some funds in investment accounts and received assistance from the US government, the loss of the total 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