ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18
MISSION

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

Future Problem Solving Program International, Inc.
2015 Grant Place
Melbourne, FL 32901
www.fpspi.org

This report covers fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

FPSPI is a dynamic international academic program involving thousands of students annually from around the world. Developed in 1974 by creativity pioneer Dr. E. Paul Torrance, Future Problem Solving (FPS) provides competitive and non-competitive components for today’s curriculum via a six-step model which teaches critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and decision making.
As we reflect on the past year’s accomplishments, we recognize the impact the Future Problem Solving process has on our students and their communities. Over 23,000 students from 15 countries around the world competed through their Affiliate or Mentored Region to showcase their abilities. Countless others were introduced to the Future Problem Solving process in their classrooms, impacting their communities and their lives for years to come. We are truly contributing to our vision of building a strong, resilient, and prosperous world wherein no problem is too complex to solve.

All of our participants, across all our components, are learning a process to analyze the problems of today and tomorrow. Community Problem Solving (CmPS) participants are putting that process into action. Recognizing the culmination of analysis, insight, and action, the 2018 Beyonder Award acknowledged an elementary school CmPS team from Kentucky for their project, Foster Friends. Developed in response to what they personally witnessed when a school mate was taken to foster care with none of her own belongings, they collected toys and personal items for her first three days with her new family. Their project blossomed into providing Foster Friends Emergency Packs for other children being placed in foster care. Other 2018 teams worked to better their environments and communities through, among many other things, reducing plastics, fighting invasive species, assisting the elderly, conserving water, and increasing school attendance. It is amazing to see the dedication students have in achieving positive outcomes for themselves and their communities.

Global Issues participants as well as Scenario writers and Scenario performers researched innovative topics and extrapolated possible consequences for the future. Utilizing the problem-solving curriculum, dedicated educators empower students by teaching them the skills needed to identify the problems related to those consequences and generating alternative solutions to those problems using creative and critical thinking.

Future Problem Solving is leading the way in critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication – the 4Cs for students of the 21st Century. The students of today are the future of tomorrow – empowering them with life skills to collaborate with others on any problem they face ensures a better world for us all.

To the students we serve, the educators 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 the mission of FPSPI.

Sincerely,

April Dennis  Janet Fite
FPSP 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!

Janet Fite, President
Affiliate Director - MO FPSP

Argen Hicks, Vice President
Affiliate Director - GA FPSP

Jason Navarino, Secretary/Policy Chair
Board Secretary/Alumnus - NJ FPSP
Board President - NY FPSP

Erwin Hosono, Treasurer/Finance Chair
Board President - CA FPSP

Justin Lightfoot, Personnel Chair
Board Member/Alumnus - IA FPSP

Matt Boyas, Accreditation Chair
Board Member/Alumnus - PA FPSP

Lisa Quintana
Board Member - TX FPSP
Alumnus - AZ FPSP

Sarah Sumners
Interim Director - University of Georgia Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development

Julie Styan
Co-Affiliate Director - NZ FPSP
“I love the diversity of teams and opportunities to explore different aspects of FPSPI like CmPS Fair.”

-International Conference 2018 participant
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Total Participation* 23,905

1 – Includes the regions of China, France, Korea, Macau, Norway, & Republic of Georgia
2 – Mentored by Minnesota, number of participants was not available at time of print
3 – Mentored by North Carolina
4 – Mentored by Malaysia
5 – Mentored by Iowa

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

**Spread of Infectious Disease**
Infectious diseases are disorders caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses, and other types of pathogenic microorganisms. Once they develop, they can spread readily among limited numbers of individuals or through large populations.

**Toxic Materials**
In today’s world, toxic materials are everywhere. These troublesome materials are any substances in liquid, solid, or gas form that can cause serious harm to humans, animals, and/or the environment.

**Philanthrocapitalism**
A recent approach to philanthropy that uses established business practices to more effectively address global problems. Over the past few centuries, philanthropic giving has consistently focused on using private resources to help create better social conditions.

**Cloud Storage**
From the earliest days of the Internet, the technology industry has been moving from local data storage on in-house computers and servers to remote, server-based storage and processing, which is commonly referred to today as “the cloud.”

**Criminal Justice Systems**
Criminal Justice Systems are composed of law enforcement agencies, court systems, and correctional institutions. These organizations operate together using defined processes and protocols to regulate crime and impose penalties on those who break laws.
Educational Disparities
Education is considered to be the pathway to an informed, future-focused population. Who should provide educational funding? Should intervention occur in communities or countries where social factors influence the quality of educational opportunities?

It’s All in the Genes
The genes of organisms can be altered using biotechnology techniques. New genes can be inserted into plants and animals to create new varieties and breeds or to lessen certain genetic activity such as susceptibility to disease. What is the long-term impact of genetic modification of plants and animals?

3-D Printing
3-D printing is an emerging technology that was first used in arts and hobbies. Because of its widespread applications, 3-D printing is now being used in business, medicine, and industry. What are the implications for global industries when individuals can products needed?

Identity Theft
Identity theft is a form of stealing someone’s identity. Most often, identity thieves steal personal financial information and buy things for their own gain. Frequently, identity thieves gain access to personal information through unsecure business and government databases.

Criminal Justice Systems
Criminal Justice Systems are composed of law enforcement agencies, court systems, and correctional institutions. These organizations operate together using defined processes and protocols to regulate crime and impose penalties on those who break laws.
University of Wisconsin La-Crosse ~ June 6-10, 2018

44th annual conference bringing together problem solvers from around the globe! Competitors experienced the highest level of problem solving utilizing critical and creative thinking as designed by Dr. E. Paul Torrance in 1974.

183 GIPS Teams
Over 750 Problem Solvers

75 CmPS Teams
Over 563 Problem Solvers

34 Scenario Performers

21 SW Teams
Over 74 Scenario Writers

179 Volunteers
Over 5,400 Hours of Donated Time

2,174 At IC From 9 Countries
New Publications Announced
Scenario Handbook for both SW and ScP
STEAM Unit on Megacities
CmPS and GiPS Champions by division

NEW FOR IC 2018
Zapper App
Users: 947
Scans: 2,103

Snapchat Filter
Swipes: 4,357
Views: 27,351

FIRST TIME ATTENDEES
Macau
France
Chongqing
Norway

Special Business and Educational Connections
• Topics Think Tank - FPS Focus Group of New and Future Topics
• Powerful Strategies to Enhance Learning of Advanced Students and Practical Ideas for Improving Critical Thinking and Writing (Nathan Levy)
• Project Management Institute Educational Foundation (Sylvia Rivera)
World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC)
July 2017, Sydney Australia

Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21)
February 2018, Washington, DC

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)
November 2017, Charlotte, NC

Learning Forward Conference
December 2017, Orlando, FL

Conferences Attended

PMIEF
April 2018, Raleigh, NC

Patterns of Innovation
March 2018, Napa, CA

Lausanne Institute
March 2018, Miami, FL

Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21)
February 2018, Washington, DC

April Dennis, Executive Director, serves as Creativity Network Chair for NAGC
Staff members traveled to conduct coaches trainings in different Affiliates and Mentored Regions around the world.
FPSPI staff members attended Affiliate Bowls in California, Florida, and Kentucky. These events provided amazing insight to the passion and dedication of students, coaches, parents, and volunteers alike. Best practices from across Affiliates are considered for program development and expansion.
Social Media Presence

**Facebook.com**
Future Problem Solving Program International

Up-to-date posts, shares, and information from IO and Affiliates.

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

**Zappar App**
Introduced new for 2018, gives users exclusive content about publications. Also utilized at IC for information about events and special announcements.

**Youtube.com**
Future Problem Solving Program International Channel

Video from FPS events, champion performances, and student testimonials.

**Instagram**
@fpspi1974

Pictures from FPS events.

**Snapchat**
Filter created for picture and video messaging featuring FPSPI logo.

#problemsolved
FACEBOOK
Total page followers: 2,586
Total page likes: 2,574

Filter uses at IC: 676
Total filter views: 27,351
Total reach: 18,791 users

SNAPCHAT

ZAPPAR

Online Virtual Training for GIPS Evaluators
Created and launched as a pilot in some areas

BADGE CODE AT IC USERS: 947
Total scans: 2,103

MOODLE

Online collaboration tool used in the FPSPI Association

PADLET

Online audio/video conferencing tool utilized for webinars and board meetings

UBER CONFERENCE

Training Online for Affiliate Directors (TOADS) course

BLACKBOARD

Created and included with materials for QP, AB, and IC topics to help Affiliates with social media posting ideas

SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKITS
179 Volunteers donating 5428.82 hours – at the International Conference

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
- Welcoming students at registration
- Monitoring events
- Working the retail store
- Many other critical needs

Volunteers are the backbone of FPSPI and a testament of the value of our program!
The alumni Facebook page, Facebook.com/FPS-Alumni-Network, is constantly updated with news, reminders of the past, and great pictures.

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

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

Alumni in Action