

Dear Future Problem Solvers,

This June, Future Problem Solving Program International will be hosting their 2020 International Conference virtually. Though our conference will be online this year, IC 2021 will be on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus! We are so appreciative to UMASS for working through this difficult time with us to ensure that plans and deposits would be rolled into the next year's onsite event – we are excited for June 2021 already!

On Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, our virtual Opening Ceremony will kick off IC 2020, and our Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> will conclude conference events. Champion problem solvers who have earned their spot at the International Conference will still have the opportunity to compete with others from around the world, and will have access to many virtual collaborative experiences as well as their competitions. These collaborative sessions include such events as the Thinking Tools Workshop, Senior Forum, and Topics Think Tank. We are currently working through the specifics for our virtual events, but we are problem solvers- just like our incredible competitors- and see this challenge as an opportunity to explore the world of virtual conferences!

Champions from Affiliate Programs can register following instructions in our registration packet. The access code can be obtained from your Affiliate Director. Thank you for understanding that further details about all competitions and events are forthcoming.

Our virtual International Conference will be a celebration of Affiliate champions, but we will have opportunities throughout the summer for anyone who wants a taste of FPS competition! MAGIC (Multi-Affiliate Global Issues Competition) will be held in mid to late June, and the FPS Experience will be held in July or August via virtual platforms, and these events will be open to any and all FPSers around the world!!

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One thing that we have learned over the last few weeks is how relevant our topics truly are. Two years ago our Practice Problem 1 was Spread of Infectious Disease, and our 2009 International Conference topic was Pandemic. While these topics did not fully prepare us for the difficulties of 2020, we have received an outpouring of positive and collaborative problem solving to make the FIRST virtual event the best possible for our students!

With the knowledge of how timely our topics are, and how necessary the skills FPS teaches are in today's world, FPSPI and Renzulli Learning have teamed up to create an incredible virtual learning opportunity! Through August 15, we are offering FREE access to interactive six-step virtual experiences on Renzulli's online platform! The first units will use the Spread of Infectious Disease and Pandemic topics, but we plan to have more available in the coming months. Watch FPSPI's Facebook page and other announcements for this and other e-learning opportunities from FPSPI!

Lastly, we wanted to offer something to our incredible coaches. FPSPI has created a community on Participate just for them! Collaborate with coaches from around the world, share ideas for how best to approach a virtual IC 2020, discuss the different components, or just take the time to meet some of your peers. This complimentary subscription will be valid through July 1. ***We may be many and varied Affiliates, but we are one Future Problem Solving community!*** To join, send an email to [elizabeth@fpspi.org](mailto:elizabeth@fpspi.org) with your name and Affiliate.

#challengeaccepted!

April Michele, FPSPI Executive Director

