Future Problem Solving Program International

Teaching students *how* to think, not *what* to think —for over 45 years

Strategic Plan
2019-2024
critical thinking
creative thinking
problem solving
decision making
Background

Dr. E. Paul Torrance, creativity pioneer, founded Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) in 1974. Our program, a not-for-profit educational organization, provides competitive and non-competitive problem solving activities that require critical and creative thinking.

FPSPI also designs and publishes materials that support the development of problem solving skills for students.

FPSPi teaches students how to think, not what to think.

The diverse offerings and resources of FPSPI provide development of problem solving skills. Participants practice these skills while engaging collaboratively to analyze and address situations within a variety of areas including social, political, scientific, economic, and technological issues.

Participation in the program strongly supports the development of 21st Century Skills.

Currently FPSPI involves thousands of students annually from Australia, China, France, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Georgia, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Vision

A strong, resilient, and prosperous world wherein no problem is too complex to solve.

Mission

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

Core Values

We believe in the importance of teaching a problem solving process to help learners build skills they need for the future – both for their personal lives and the future of the world.

We value the passion and dedication to FPSPI produced in our participants, coaches, Affiliate Directors, employees, evaluators, volunteers, and supporters.

We base our work on the belief that participation in the program develops critical core values in young people leading to their becoming successful global citizens.
Goals and Initiatives

I. Develop and Maintain a Sustainable Organizational Structure
- Support growth and sustainability for student participation in all Affiliate Programs (Affiliate structure)
- Implement and maintain organizational efficiency throughout FPSPI
- Support growth and sustainability for student participation in non-Affiliated regions (Structure for non-affiliated regions, some under IO, some under Affiliates)

II. Increase awareness of FPSPI as a Global Leader for Educating Students in Creative and Critical Problem Solving Strategies
- Utilize a variety of marketing materials and media outlets to promote FPSPI
- Establish and maintain association with internationally recognized leaders and organizations in education and creativity
- Establish and maintain connection with FPSPI supporters (ex. alumni, parents, and donors)

III. Strengthen the Delivery of FPS through the Use of Technology to Enhance Student Learning
- Ensure technologies used for operations, program, and communications are up-to-date and work together to enhance the mission of FPSPI
- Provide online system for registration, competition, collaboration, submission, and evaluation in all components
- Provide virtual training for participants, coaches, evaluators, and directors
- Maintain dynamic, interactive FPSPI websites with an intuitive and user-friendly platform compatible with international software platforms
- Support the use of technology by providing resources available to Affiliate Programs

IV. Ensure Continued Impact of FPS on Students by Maintaining the Financial Stability of FPSPI
- Obtain long-lasting sponsors with goals that align with FPSPI
- Locate additional sources of revenue for FPSPI
- Increase revenue from publication sales
- Maintain vigilance for fiscal responsibility

V. Develop engaging curriculum for students and training for the FPS community
- Revise, develop, and promote curriculum materials for coaches and students
- Strengthen training for Affiliate Directors and evaluators
- Provide training and materials for individuals representing FPSPI as trainers or spokespersons
- Provide exceptional materials and opportunities that promote student competition and collaboration
Our Six Step Process

In Future Problem Solving, students learn to apply a six-step creative problem solving process using future scenarios and/or current community concerns. Our students are equipped with a problem solving model for the real world. Research is conducted prior to problem solving so that situations can be analyzed thoroughly.

Problem Solving Model

1. Identify Challenges
2. Select an Underlying Problem
3. Produce Solution Ideas
4. Select Criteria
5. Apply Criteria to Top Solutions
6. Develop an Action Plan

#problemsolved
Components

Future Problem Solving Program International provides opportunities to meet the various needs of students in the 21st Century. Our interdisciplinary program empowers students to problem solve when confronting challenges to social, political, scientific, economic, and technological issues.

Participation in FPS promotes interpersonal communication, ethical leadership, and responsible group membership through our various components.

FPSPI offers five components for participation: four competitive and one non-competitive. Evaluation through authentic assessment is provided to strengthen student skills.

Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) Team and Individual
Scenario Writing (SW) Individual
Action-Based Problem Solving (AbPS) Non-Competitive
Community Problem Solving (CmPS) Team and Individual
Scenario Performance (ScP) Individual

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Skills in the Workplace

With problem solving becoming increasingly valued in the workplace, FPS fills a critical gap in today’s school curriculum.

The pace of change in the workplace is staggering as many jobs that our students will hold in the future do not exist today.

Research and analytical skills are critical, and the FPS program has been proven successful at teaching these important skills.

The World Economic Forum Future Jobs Report (2016) identified the top ten skill sets they believe will be desired by future employers. Participating in FPS components gives students practice in all ten with direct training in the first nine.

By 2020, the World Economic Forum predicts there will be the need for:

- Complex Problem Solving
- Creativity
- Coordinating with Others
- Service Orientation
- Cognitive Flexibility
- Critical Thinking
- People Management
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Negotiation
- Emotional Intelligence

In a survey conducted in 2014, FPS alumni responded to the question:

“**How important was Future Problem Solving in the development of your following skill sets?**”

The following, which reflect several of the skill sets above, were identified as important or extremely important by over 85% of the respondents.

**IMPORTANCE OF FPS IN DEVELOPING SKILL SETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Set</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Extremely Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researching</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify &amp; Solve Problems</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look at the &quot;Big Picture&quot;</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation &amp; Decision Making</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Communication</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Work/ Collaboration</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: December 2014 FPSPI Alumni Survey*
Educational Connections

Educators can use the FPS program to enhance their curriculum, giving their students the tools they need to succeed both now and in the future.

FPS meets curriculum standards in many content areas and is adaptable to all ages of students. The flexibility of our program lends itself to use within the classroom, within the school, or as an extracurricular activity. Even parents and students can start their own FPS programs, providing opportunities for students to learn problem solving techniques, and to compete and advance in Affiliate and International competitions.

FPSPI continually receives recognition in professional journals and educational textbooks as an effective program. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognizes FPS as a teaching strategy that promotes problem solving skills in their Education for Sustainable Development. UNESCO provides several FPS activities for immediate use by global educators.

An article about the role of critical thinking in FPS is included in the 4Cs Research Series, “What We Know About Critical Thinking,” published by the Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21).

In 2016, the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) honored FPSPI as one of the recipients of the Annemarie Roeper Global Awareness Award for providing opportunities for students to understand varying perspectives and to grapple with complex issues, promoting positive social action, fostering caring for the Earth, facilitating interaction among differing cultures, and offering a venue to respond to concerns about the future.

FPSPI is actively involved in many professional and educational organizations:

— National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)
— The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
— World Council on Gifted and Talented Children
— Supporting the Emotional Needs of Gifted (SENG)
— Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development
— World Future Society
— Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21)
— Youth Service America
Be a part of our future

Your contributions will support Future Problem Solving to:

- Develop a virtual collaborative online system
- Continue high quality evaluation of student work
- Create additional STEAM curriculum units
- Support the FPS mission for students to achieve positive futures through problem solving!

Whether through corporate giving, individual donations, or volunteerism, your support is an investment in the next generation of global citizens.

Visit fpspi.org/donate to schedule your recurring gift today!

Thank you!