

IMPACT REPORT

2020-21



Proud creator of the award-winning program



Taking it to the next level...

OUR TRANSITION:

- Connect-IT 360, a Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization focused on *bridging the skills gap* between business and education
- Up until now we have been working with the Pinellas Education Foundation to administer and conduct our award-winning after school program, “Next Generation Tech (NGT)” in Pinellas Count, FL.. Our first season taking full management responsibility for the NGT360 program is season 2020-21 which is the 6th season of the award winning NGT program now known as NGT360.
- Encouraged by our business community to expand outside of Pinellas county we have evolved the NGT program into Next Gen Tech 360 (NGT360) to impact more communities and transform education for our youth to prepare them to be the future creators and leaders in this new world
- Connect-IT 360 in its startup phase is enhancing NGT360 to be scalable allowing it to increase its footprint from a local level to a larger scale across Florida and beyond.
- We are extremally hopeful with our investment in the NGT360 program and expanded partnerships, along with. the support of our sponsors to fulfill our vision of creating collaborative communities developing their local talent to thrive in the most challenging of times.

AWARDS:

Our president and founder Robyn Mussler was recognized as one of the top innovators in Tampa Bay in Education by the Tampa Bay Business Journal. Check out <http://bit.ly/TBBJ-Inno-Award>



Season 2020-21:



- **135 Students in Pinellas**
- **\$15,000 in scholarships**
- **40 Technology Innovation Certificates**
- **7 internships**

Thank you to the Pinellas Education Foundation, Qurate Retail Group, Catalina foundation and Clinton Day for your sponsorship and belief in our program and students!

Board of Directors

Robyn Mussler – President/Founder

Ted Finch

Alex Paunic

Kishen Sridharan

Jennifer Hurst

Bill Van Emburg

2020 -21 Rev & Exp

Revenue:

- **\$27,000**

Expenditures:

- **\$7,000** (Website, Backoffice, tools & Marketing)

** 15k reserved for 2021 scholarships*



Resiliency

•RE-SET
•RE-ALIGN
•RE-START
•RE-CLAIM
•RE-IGNITE

2019-20 in review...



Students working with mentors to refine their ideas and products. Talent was amazing this season!



Catalina hosted workshop teaching our students about identifying customer markets.



Finalists ready to pitch to the judges. Talent was outstanding this season. No cancelation here, they rose to the occasion!



Synapse Summit was a huge success! NGT360 building a pipeline of the next generation of innovators!



Virtual session with Kevin Harrington and our winning team, Climatrix. Kevin gave them three thumbs up!



Virtual Awards Ceremony with the Lunchpool service allowed us to maintain our personal touch and award our students with style!

View our 2019-20 season at <https://bit.ly/NGT360-YouTube-channel>

2019-20 Student Awards

GRANT WINNERS



Purfect Fetch (Lakewood & Jacobson Tech High) Casey Miltner, Malachi Valle, Martin Martinez, and Rya Uttasing
Mobile App to adopt pets
\$3,500 Grant



ClimaTrek (Palm Harbor University) Kayleigh Beron, Kiran Ganga, and Mateusz Plaza
Bluetooth atmosphere monitoring device
\$10,000 Grant



BARCC (Palm Harbor University) Aanya Bhandari, Nia Balieva, Roxanne Postell
Mobile App for Pet Ownership
\$1,500 Grant

AWARDS of DISTINCTION

Best White Label Platform for the Rental Industry



Rentathon (Palm Harbor University) Ayush Pai, Krish Asknani, Alex Kranias
Mobile App for renting photography equipment

Most Practical Solution & Pivot



Find my Water (Jacobson Tech High) Nathan Carter, Devon Dunham, Colin Dunn
Mobile App to help find supplies in natural disaster situations

Most Marketable Idea from a Non-Tech team



Virtualfinds (Palm Harbor University) Alexis Werneken, Janet Liu, Melinda Liu
Website to find lost items Most Marketable Idea from a Non-Tech team

Best Storyteller & Animation



PrepareNow (Largo HS) Cassandra Bernard, Josh Mott, Teo Couedelo, Martin Stavro
Mobile app teaching how to manage predictable and preventable non emergencies

Our Finalists

This season the teams were like sponges. Such a diverse selection from the 17 Pinellas County High Schools in the district. Girls involvement in the program increased by over 35%. This was by far the toughest year for the judges to make their decision.

When faced with having to pivot due to the pandemic these students rose to the occasion and demonstrated an incredible amount of creativity to prepare for final pitches. We used a virtual platform

 **lunchpool** using Remo technology to host the final presentations, winners pitch to Kevin Harrington and the awards ceremony.

See this talent firsthand, checkout the 2019-20 final pitches playlist: <http://bit.ly/NextGenTech-YouTube>

We are highlighting both season 2019-20 & 2020-21 although Connect-IT 360 started taking the reins and separating from the Pinellas Education Foundation to be able to expand and take its program outside of Pinellas for all students to benefit. The financials reflect when the nonprofit actually started operation.

2019-20 Business Community

Judges

  Kyle Donovan	  Brian Kornfeld	  Holly Markham	  Tara Murphy
  Robyn Mussler	  Brittany Phillips	  Lakshmi Shenoy	  Mathew Thomas

Mentors (Our Secret Sauce)

CATALINA Michael Bailey* Lemont Chambliss* Danielle Chard* Laisha Daley* Kris Hauhe* George Panagopoulos* Adrienne Slagle* Luis Valez* * mentors/speakers	RAYMOND JAMES Marc Boursiquot Helena Fiallos Kelly Kelly Simon Phillips Nancy Pierson Mandisa Tatum Scott Vejdani	nielsen Jack Barbey Boris Brown Brenda Morrell Lisa Williams Sara Liang	 Christopher Mackey Vincent Knapp Blake Shadle
Adonis AD PARTNERS Jennifer Hurst	 Alex Paunic	 BANKING FOR GOOD Jason Coon Stephan Gonzalez	ASCOT Power Technologies Kim Snyder
MELILLO CONSULTING Bill VanEmburg	 John Shine	 Debra Sheldon TechData TJ Cleberg	 Matt Spaulding
		EMPOWER LEADERSHIP Joe Dering Sara Stirling Doug Whittington	 John Wang AgileThought Ned Pope



Pinellas Education Foundation



RAYMOND JAMES®



School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program



Program Sponsors – Through Pinellas Education

Pivoting for 2020-21

We had to make some tough decisions after the 2019-20 season to determine how to move forward if at all. In the spirit of NGT360, having agility and pure grit we moved forward to help our community and next generation understand how to best maneuver in these challenging time in this new world of ours.

Pivots:

- Partnering with Gnowbe, a microlearning platform, allowing us to virtualize the program and curriculum
- Using zoom to host the workshops
- Switching from monthly 2-hour workshops to 1 hour bi-monthly session
- Partnering with Pelocity a skill assessment and career coaching company
- Participation in the Synapse Summit Virtual Expo
- Creation of an Alumni Ambassador program to continue to be there for our former participants to provide tools and guidance in their career development
- Enhancing the judging rubric for modern challenges
- Allowing all participants of the program to be involved in the entire program with finalists chosen at the end of the program thus allowing all students to develop a full tech tool-kit
- Host a Business Innovation session for students to hear from industry leaders withing the Tampa Bay area, as well as, globally to understand what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur and innovator in today's world

gnowbe



We decided to do something fun for the 2020-21 season and have a contest for the kids to design a logo reflecting what this season means to them. We had two winners; one for the logo and the other for the slogan.



Brandon Hendricks from Tech High of Seminole - best logo. Brandon says the reason he came up with this puzzle piece is through his journey of participating in NGT360 for four years he originally wanted to make a road/pathway but did a puzzle piece because he felt that would create the correct symbolism for the type of information/skills taught in the NGT360 program, its complex and not a straight line, and you can't finish a puzzle with just one piece.



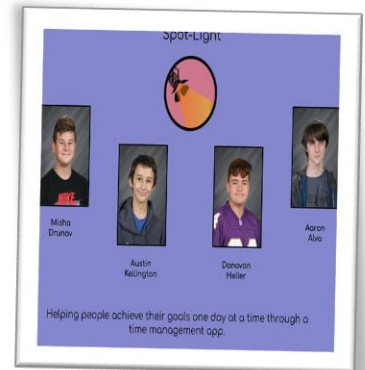
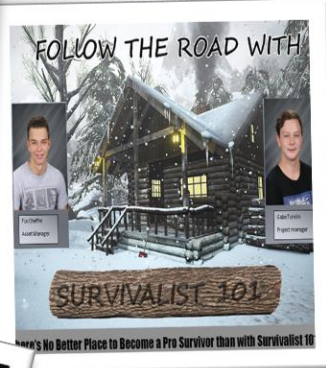
Arath Penca from Tech High of Seminole - best slogan. Arath chose this slogan, "The future is Now" because he always hears quotes like "building the future of tomorrow" or "improving the future". Arath says the fact of the matter is that the future is already here!



Our youth continue to amaze us with their talent. We are proud of how these kids are rising above with a growth mindset for success. You can purchase NGT360 merchandise with this logo <https://bit.ly/NGT360-Fundraiser-2020-21>

Connect-IT 360 - Dedicated to the success of the Next Generation

2020-21 Finalists



There were 10 finalist teams. Nine from Richard O Jacobson Tech High of Seminole and one from Palm Harbor University High School. The entire season was virtual using the Gnowbe mobile platform to do their course work and communicate with mentors. We conducted bimonthly zoom sessions to teach the NGT360 program and interact with the mentors.

Connect-IT 360 - Dedicated to the success of the Next Generation

2020-21 Student Awards

GRANT WINNERS



Blooming Inspiration

Sarah Hubbard, Thien Hoang
Carly Travis

*Richard O Jacobson
Tech High of Seminole*



Green Print

Aanya Bhandari, Nia Balieva
Alexandra Unbehagen

Palm Harbor University



Magnifind

Arath Penca, Brandon Hendricks
Daniel Weiss, Diego Growe

*Richard O Jacobson
Tech High of Seminole*

AWARDS of DISTINCTION



Grade Stream

Christian Duggan
Colin Dunn, Nate Carter



TRUE GRIT

Connor Daland, Devon Dunham
Joey Burke, Logan LeBlanc

*Richard O Jacobson
Tech High of Seminole*



RESILENCY

Survivalists 101

Fox Cheffer,
Gabriel Tomlin

*Richard O Jacobson
Tech High of Seminole*

All in all it was a successful year. We were agile and adaptable to be able to have the entire season. True grit and tenacity is at the heart of the NGT360 program. These students have learned some of the most valuable skills to not just survive but thrive.

We had two teams from the previous season (2019-20) Rentathon from Palm Harbor University HS and EZCamp from Richard O Jacobson Tech High of Seminole win congressional awards for the products they developed in the NGT program. For more information go to <https://connectit360.org/next-gen-tech-360-finalists-win-2020-congressional-awards/>

Program Sponsors – Through Pinellas Education

2020-21 NGT360 Judges



**Kyle
Donovan**



Allie Felix



Brian Kornfeld



Holly Markham



**Tara
Murphy**



**Robyn
Mussler**



**Aakash
Patel**



**Brittany
Phillips**



NGT 2020-21 Business Community



Thank you to everyone (students, mentors, judges & sponsors) for your support of the Next Gen Tech 360 program. It was a tough year and well worth it! We made it happen in spite of so many programs shutting down. The Next Generation is resilient.