

SOLVE



Inspired by SOLVE LEARN

SOLVE

Entrepreneurs of the future

Inspiring agents of change in local classrooms

- LEARN is key – it's connected in a fundamental way to every big problem
- Any positive change, and most technological solutions, must involve an informed population
- Any SOLVE initiative should think about outreach, communication, and education immediately
- Starting out of InvestOttawa, SOLVE Canada is **ideally situated** to create positive impact by helping to inspire our future workers, builders, and leaders



A little more about why we need to care

- It sounds like a cliché, but our students today will be building the future in a few years
- Canada is ahead of the curve on education – we can help it move farther ahead. There's more to do...
- What is SOLVE about? It's about the future. It's about setting the best trajectory we can through what may be the most tenuous period of human history yet.
- Students are this future. They're going to need to figure things out that we've never yet imagined. Let's give them the tools.
- Beyond Canada



What should we teach students?

- Teach what we know. What is a start-up?
- Courtesy of Mike/Thiel: A startup is the largest and smallest group of people you can convince of a plan to build a different future
- This is what we can show students:
 - Identify problems in the world around you – start locally, or within a school
 - Investigate, dive deep, understand the problem
 - Build a team with the right combined skills to allow you to act
 - Figure out how you can change it
 - Implement, validate, iterate



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How will we do it?

SOLV*ed*

Pilot project proposal: **SOLVed**



Motivation

- K-12 is focused on knowledge, understanding, and thinking about concepts, ideas, and facts - this is GOOD
- But what else is important? ---- **Bias for action**
- Schools can help students embrace productive teamwork, realize the value of diverse perspectives, and instill agency
- Canadian schools are already good at this, but they can be even better!
- Students at all levels (K-12, undergrad, graduate school) too often think about questions like “what do I want to be?” This question should more often be “what types of problems do I want to help to solve?”
- Young entrepreneurs are ideal examples

Two core ideas:

- Entrepreneurs have recognized problems and opportunities, taken action to start building teams and creating change toward solving those problems. Showing this philosophy to more students can be a **powerful motivator** for engagement and promotion of “problem solver” and “agent of change” mindsets.
- The best way to get students engaged, to teach them that they can affect the world, is to show them how to do it. We can establish a programme to help students self-organize to identify local problems, build teams of peers, design solutions, and then go out and implement those solutions.



What does SOLVed need?

- Participation from entrepreneurs and professionals willing to engage with students. This is hard, but there are good reasons to make time...
- A clear picture of how involvement in schools will work
 - Structured talks from entrepreneurs at schools (bi-weekly sessions?)
 - After-hours extra-curricular involvement
 - Volunteer hours
 - Guidance on problem identification, team-building, planning, and implementation
 - One-semester programs with classes to keep involvement regular and engagement high
- Cooperation with schools. We can reach out NOW to take first steps. This can help guide SOLVed's initial program.

Why should entrepreneurs get involved?

- The cliché : *The students of today are the workers and leaders of tomorrow.* Better, more engaged students means better hires and business partners down the line. In ten years, you will be working with students of today to build new, amazing things.
- More education means more political engagement, better decisions, higher economic productivity → more investment dollars and more prosperous consumers. More, better ideas leading to the revolutionary technologies and paradigms of the future. More empathy and cooperation → less polarization and conflict. Less irrational fear, more rational planning. More than any business interest, these are all *necessary for future human prosperity.*
- The world needs this. The real opportunities are outside Canada. We have the support of SOLVE. More initiatives like this can spread strategies widely, and result in more talented leaders and builders all around the world. We will help unlock this potential.
- We have big problems. The next generation will do a lot of the heavy lifting. Let help them realize that they can.

... we're not alone in this, either

- **Let's Talk Science:** Canadian national STEM program in K-12 schools, volunteer basis
- **ScienceFromScientists:** US (Massachusetts/California) STEM K-12 program. Hires graduate students, professionals full-time to teach engaging science in schools.
- **Many** entrepreneurial education programs in Ottawa, through universities and other organizations
- Many potential partners, but InvestOttawa and SOLVE Canada have unique perspectives to offer which can help a great deal

Fun quotation (from <http://timreview.ca/article/394>, an article on Ottawa entrepreneurial programs)

There exists a long-standing debate on whether entrepreneurship can be taught or if it is an innate ability. [Howard H. Stevenson](#), Sarofim-Rock Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, explains teaching entrepreneurship with the following metaphor: **“even if people have innate musical talent, you can’t necessarily teach them to become Beethoven. But if they have the innate talent, then they probably would benefit from piano lessons. There are some things that in fact you can help people learn. They can learn either at the school of hard knocks or by coming to class and building understanding.”** By the same token, these individuals can learn by being engaged with youth entrepreneurship programs.

I had the privilege of sitting with Howard H. Stevenson for dinner, the first night of SOLVE (quite randomly!) He may have the sharpest mind I've ever encountered.

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THANK YOU