# Pennsylvania Educator Diversity Consortium

## Executive Summary

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## Background

The Pennsylvania Educator Diversity Consortium (PEDC) is a statewide organization committed to increasing the representation of educators of color and promoting culturally relevant and sustaining education across Pennsylvania. Despite a student population that is over one-third students of color, only 6% of teachers share their backgrounds. To address this mismatch, PEDC unites partners from early childhood, K-12, postsecondary, nonprofit, and governmental sectors through initiatives like their Annual Educator Diversity Summit, Resource Repository, and Asset Map.

## Project Description

### Project Opportunity

PEDC faces a decentralization of information regarding demographics and educational resources across Southwest Pennsylvania. Also, the current asset map lacks comprehensive data coverage and presents usability challenges that limit its effectiveness. Additionally, there is currently no mechanism in place for users to report data inaccuracies or provide feedback, which hinders continuous improvement and data reliability.

### Project Vision

Our vision was to transform the asset map into a dynamic, accessible, and user-friendly resource that empowers educators, nonprofits, policymakers, and community partners to advance educational equity across Southwest Pennsylvania. To achieve this, we expanded the dataset to include a broader range of stakeholders, refined the user interface to improve navigation and usability, and added additional pages to enhance content organization and clarity—ultimately increasing the asset map's reach, relevance, and long-term value.

## Project Outcomes

**People:** Our team facilitated deeper stakeholder engagement through interviews, usability testing, and collaborative feedback sessions by PEDC members. We also supported knowledge transfer by guiding PEDC staff on key processes and data workflows.

**Process:** Our team worked closely with PEDC to streamline the data collection and visualization pipeline. To support long-term sustainability, we developed a detailed standard operating procedure for adding new data to the asset map.

**Technology:** We developed and enhanced a publicly accessible Tableau dashboard that visualizes all requested data, including information about cities, school districts, media outlets, and philanthropic organizations. The dashboard is interactive and scalable, designed to accommodate additional data and regions over time.

## Project Deliverables

Our deliverables include an updated asset map with an expanded dataset of nonprofits, media, cities, and philanthropic organizations to provide a more comprehensive view of DEI resources in Southwest Pennsylvania. We also developed multiple rounds of redesign prototypes in both Figma and HTML. Additionally, we provided PEDC with customizable user feedback templates to support evaluation from end users and training materials to ensure sustainability. Lastly, we outlined recommendations for future development phases, including options for password protection and consideration of alternative visualization platforms.

## Recommendations

Our team recommends that PEDC embed the updated asset map directly into the PEDC website or provide a clearly visible link, ensuring that members can easily discover and access the resource. The team also recommends that PEDC send out the user feedback survey and incorporate insights from the feedback report into future iterations. If PEDC decides to include sensitive or restricted data, the team recommends implementing access control through password protection features available on platforms like Wix, so that only authorized users can view protected content. Additional suggestions regarding sustainability and training are included in the project documentation folder for PEDC's reference.

## Student Consulting Team

**Amanda Lu** served as the primary researcher and UI designer for the project. She is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with minors in Artificial Intelligence and Philosophy. She will be interning at Dick's Sporting Goods as a Software Engineer this summer.

**Krutika Kumar** managed community partner relationships and data mapping for the asset map project. She is a senior majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Computer Science and Business Administration. Upon graduation, she will be joining Microsoft as a software engineer.

**Xuchao Zhou** was responsible for managing all project timelines, organizing the deliverables, and dealing with unexpected disturbance within the group. He is a senior student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Economics. Upon graduation, he will be seeking a Master's Degree in Computer Science at UCSD.