

# A Letter from Ignited's CEO



Forty years ago, thirteen visionary Silicon Valley CEOs and UC Berkeley came together to launch Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education (IISME)—now Ignited—on a bold premise: that connecting teachers directly with industry would transform classrooms and prepare students for the careers of the future.

That vision was strengthened over decades by many exceptional leaders whose dedication built the foundation I am honored to stand on. Alongside them, thousands of teachers, coaches, staff, and partners have shaped Ignited into the trusted, effective, and beloved organization it is today.

As you'll read in this report, our 40<sup>th</sup> summer brought together 187 teachers with 50 partner companies, ranging from Lucid Motors and Windfall Bio to Amazon and Rigetti. Our teachers turned these experiences into classroom lessons to spark curiosity and <u>inspire future careers</u> for their 23,370 students.

In 40 years, Ignited has partnered with more than 4,000 teachers, reaching over 4 million students. This is a milestone worth celebrating - and it is also a call to action. The workforce is changing rapidly, and the need for career-connected learning has never been greater. Ignited's history has prepared us to meet this moment with proven strategies to make a lasting difference.

Invite you to stand with us in our next chapter. Together, we can ensure that every student has access to the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to thrive in tomorrow's economy.

Warmly,





# What We Do

# The Challenge

**Students** need access to meaningful career pathways **Teachers** need industry connections and resources **Industry** needs a skilled, diverse workforce

# The Mission

**Ignited** connects industry leaders directly with teachers to translate durable skills and innovative thinking into K-14 classrooms.

By empowering educators through immersive experiences, we transform classrooms and inspire career trajectories.

# Impact at Scale



Teachers uniquely influence students' careers, especially in underserved communities.

# Teacher Experience

# **Student Outcomes**





### **LEARNING COMMUNITY SEMINARS**

1-hour career snapshots, paired with teaching tools



# **Exposure**

## **EXPERIENCE WEEKS**

1-week workplace explorations of industry professions Teachers enhance lessons with career connections



# Transformation



# **SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

8-week project-based immersion in industry Teachers develop open-source lesson plans



# Get Involved

# **Commit**

Express your intent to host a teacher in summer 2026

# Connect

Connect us with the changemakers in your network

# **Donate**

Expand access to industry connections with a donation

# 2025 Impact



this year, we implemented

16 fellowships, 5 industryexperience weeks, andlearning community seminars

supported by

26 funders and 54 hosts & speakers





reaching

**187** teachers

from 128 schools, 70 districts, and 17 counties



impacting 23,370+ students





increased enthusiasm for teaching



increased teaching efficacy





increased student learning



helped students understand real world practices

# 2025 Summer Fellowship Program

# 16 Fellowships | 32 Mentors | 5,120 Hours of Work

# **Featured Fellowships**

# Kalena Amazon Fellow



**Fellowship Project** 

Supported Amazon Alexa Kids Team, using backward design to develop engaging, safe, and educational products.

### **Student Experience**

Use Amazon's PR/FAQ (press release/frequently asked questions) process to design passion projects with clarity and real-world impact.

Alexis & Arch
Genentech Fellows



# **Fellowship Project**

Automated toxicokinetic data analysis to define drug safety thresholds and reduce unnecessary testing.

### **Student Experience**

Explore pharmacokinetics, drug efficacy, and the social justice implications of healthcare access.

Susan The Tech Fellow



# **Fellowship Project**

Analyzed resources from The Tech Interactive (a science center), recommending ways to better support and engage educators.

### **Student Experience**

Research cybersecurity topics in teams, creating interactive projects to teach and demonstrate understanding.



2025 Fellows Ardsher, Alexis, Arch, Greg, Shelli, Conor, Kristine, Nick, Susan, and Savannah (left to right)

# Thank you to our sponsors!

- Agilent Technologies Foundation
- Amazon
- Genentech
- Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
- Mellam Family Foundation
- Rigetti
- Stanford University
- The Tech Interactive

# 2025 Industry Experience Weeks

5 Weeks | 132 Teachers | 39 Industry Partners | 19,800 Students Impacted

**June** 2-6

Computer Engineering, Language & Innovation: Semiconductor Secrets

Semiconductors and the intersection of computer science, language, and tech

SAMSUNG | NEXTFLEX | APPLIED MATERIALS | INTEL | NOKIA | STANFORD | SEMI







**June** 9-13

**Science in the City** 

The hidden science of public utilities and the vital role of water in San Francisco

INDIA BASIN | LAKE MERCED | PRESIDIO | TREASURE ISLAND | BIO DIGESTER







June 23-27

# **East Bay Sustainability Week**

Sustainability and climate change through the lens of water management

# USDA | THE TECH | EAST BAY MUD | CENTRAL SAN | RAFT | SAN PABLO RESERVOIR







**July** 7-11

# **South Bay Sustainability Week**

Sustainability and climate change through water, energy, and materials

# VALLEY WATER | AGILENT | FABMO | WINDFALL BIO | IFF | VULCAN | LUCID MOTORS







**July** 21-25

# So Cal Water Week with Eastern Municipal Water District

Water management and infrastructure in Southern California

# EMWD FACILITIES | DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE | WESTERN SCIENCE CENTER







# **Curriculum Coaches**

Our coaches support teachers in translating their company experience into lesson plans, featured on the Resource Library.

As **Ignited alumni and practicing educators**, they bring firsthand experience that enables them to support teachers with empathy and practical insight.



Coaches Debra Dimas, Jenny Chin, I-Heng McComb, Kiruthika Paulvannan (left to right)



**I-Heng McComb**, a 6-time summer fellow and dedicated coach for 7 years, approaches each summer with undiminished curiosity.

"My coaching experience is an annual immersion in the question: how can we bring the excitement of these fellowships alive for students and help them build the skills they'll need to pursue this kind of work in the future?"

# **\*** Teacher Participant

"The coaches created a safe space for our reflection and growth...I truly appreciated their commitment to helping us succeed and feel valued throughout the journey."





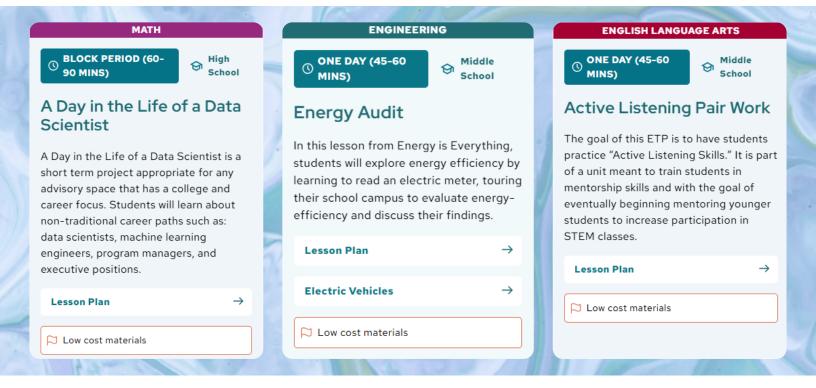


Experience Week curriculum coaches Julianna Mululu, Esme Tovar, Liz Metzler, Kerin Coffey (left to right)

# Introducing Ignited's Resource Library

An online, open access platform connecting classrooms to careers 667 Resources | 100+ Companies | Topics from Aerospace to ZEVs

**Explore the Resource Library** 



Teachers can filter and sort according to their needs:

- Classroom Subject
- Keyword
- Grade Level
- Industry
- Time to Implement
- Company
- Materials Cost

Help students envision a future career in your industry - add your company

Thank you to Electrify America and the Office of Naval Research for supporting the development of the Resource Library



# **School Year Support**

Learning Community and Fund for Innovation

# 6 Seminars | 13 Speakers | 4 Industries | 7 Projects Funded

In our monthly **Learning Community**, industry leaders share diverse career paths and Ignited alumni present lesson plans that teachers can implement in their classrooms.



**John Wuerth | Eastern Municipal Water District** – "I absolutely love what I do...As you look into the water and resource management side of things, there are a lot of different opportunities to find where you fit."

**Neda Deylami | Environmental Defense Fund** – "My story mattered, my perspective mattered, because I brought something to the proverbial table of advocacy that no one else had experienced."



Summer Fellows and Learning Community participants have the opportunity to apply for our **Fund For Innovation (FFI)** awards to support classroom materials that engage students in hands-on activities. From electric vehicle model kits to prototyping tools and air monitoring stations, teachers are keeping their classrooms relevant and innovative.

# Ardsher Ahmed | 2024 FFI Recipient Computer Science Teacher Greenfield High School

"In the summer of 2024, we had a Sustainability Week...and we came up with the idea that we should limit our emissions of fossil fuels somehow. And so I'm promoting that in my classroom—what is an EV, how to design it, and what are the advantages."



# **Translating Summer** into the Classroom

Student Experiences in School Year 2024-25

# **Lauren Smith**

### 2024 Fellow at Amazon Lab126

AP Environmental Science and Biology Saint Francis High School

Lauren's students evaluated paper towel products using Amazon Devices' quality methodologies-developing experimental design, critical thinking, and scientific argument skills.



"As a science teacher I often get asked, 'Why do I need to know this?' This project provides students with a concrete example of the importance of the collaboration and critical thinking skills that they learn in class."



# **Christie Loar**

# **2024 Sustainable Solutions Week**

English, ESL/ELD, and Language Arts Ygnacio Valley High School

Christie's students explored environmental themes in poetry and also researched a local sustainability issue in order to write a grant proposal—practicing writing as a tool for advocacy.





"I love the real-world aspect of the Experience Week-it takes teachers out of the school setting."

# **Johnson Huynh**

# **2024 Fellow at Stanford University**

**Engineering and AP Physics** Leland High School

Johnson's students practiced fundamental skills in crystallography by identifying repeatable patterns and creating their own tessellations, leading them to design a particular unit cell and investigate the composite structure's compressive strength.



"My experience strengthened my belief in student success and developed my empathy towards students' struggle. Telling students that I worked a summer at Stanford helped demystify the college environment and the concept that science is a process that actual people engage in."



# **Krista Kelley**



Engineering and Makerspace G.M. Walters Junior High School



**Krista's students** conducted hands-on experiments with kale leaves, flower petals, and magic sand to explore hydrophobic properties in nature - learning how nonscientists study tiny structures to innovate water-repellent products and self-cleaning surfaces.

Being able to speak with industry professionals was a very important element that other professional development opportunities I've attended did not have available."

Classroom Impact from Summer 2024



143 Teachers

150 Students/vr

20,610+
STUDENTS

impacted by Ignited teachers in school year 2024-2025

# Student Spark Stories

At Ignited, we know the summer is just the beginning. Teacher alumni return to their classrooms with new experiences that ignite student curiosity and open doors to the future. Years later, we've seen how those early sparks of inspiration can lead to young professionals thriving in promising careers.

Explore the transformative influence of Ignited educators.

**Read the Spark Stories** 



Jackie Ng | Assurance Associate, PwC Student of Kenny Contreras, High School Math Teacher

"Because of Mr. Contreras, I gained the confidence to trust myself and embrace where I am...he showed me that setbacks are steps forward."

**Jordan Chew | Software Engineer, Amazon**Student of Derrall Garrison, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher

"Because of Mr. Garrison, I discovered a lifelong love of learning and curiosity for the things that make the world work."





Patrick Mishreky | Engineering Major, UC Berkeley Student of Jessica Porter, CTE Engineering Teacher

"Her background in industry helped connect that bridge between what we study in class and how we would use that later on outside the classroom."

**Emily Chien** | **Junior Engineer, SF Public Utilities Commission** Student of Jonathan Montoya, CTE Department Chair

"These kinds of skills are not always taught in the classroom, but they're very beneficial to practice before you get into the workforce."



# 40<sup>th</sup> **Spark the Future**Celebration

On July 31, we gathered 150 Ignited teachers and supporters to commemorate 40 successful years of programming, impacting 4 thousand teachers and 4 million students. A heartfelt thank you to Amazon for hosting us!



"If the teachers are getting half the value that we at Amazon get from working with them - it's worth it."

**Rob Stites** | VP of Supply Chain at Amazon and longtime Ignited supporter



"I felt a renewed sense of energy. It taught me WHY we need science."

Student of Kiruthika Paulvannan | Middle School teacher and Ignited alumna



"The early exposure to technology opened up paths to my future I had never considered."

**Jordan Chew** | Software Developer at Amazon and student of Ignited alumnus









Platinum Transparency 2025

Candid.

**Give \$40 for 40 years** and help us spark the future! Ignited is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, federal tax ID number 77-0143865.

# 40th Stories

Honoring 40 Years of Impact One Story at a Time

# Faith Dukes | Director of K-12 Programs at Berkeley Lab Former Ignited Board Member, Multi-Year Fellowship Mentor

"The teachers we've collaborated with have brought invaluable pedagogical expertise, enabling us to craft authentic, challenging, and balanced STEM experiences for students. As a result, our curriculum has become stronger and our students more engaged." Read more



# Bimal Patel | DeviceOps ACES Leader at Amazon Lab126 Multi-Year Fellowship Mentor

"I've had the privilege of mentoring teachers for four summers, and each experience has been uniquely rewarding....Teachers bring fresh ideas and develop new skills in our employees, while gaining insights into corporate culture and mental models to share with their students." **Read more** 

# Shari Liss | VP Global Workforce Development & Initiatives at SEMI Current Ignited Board Member, Former Ignited CEO

"What kept me engaged for more than two decades was the unwavering commitment of both the organization and its incredible team to making real impact....This program didn't just strengthen education; it strengthened the entire innovation ecosystem." Read more





# Ari Vogel | Director, Program Management at Lockheed Martin Former Fellowship Mentor

"A teacher counterpart assisted our test team with procedure modernization during a particularly busy time. Her high-quality work was ready to use with minimal additional effort, highlighting how this program optimizes efficiency and benefits both our team and the broader community." Read more

# Shape the Workforce of Tomorrow

### **Output and Productivity**

A teacher "consultant" provides extra headcount and fresh perspective to bring a project to completion.

### **Workforce Development**

Each teacher equips 150 local students/year with skills and insights that shape their career pathways.

2025 Top ROIs | As ranked by our corporate partners

### **Local Brand Awareness**

Name recognition as an innovative and forward-thinking company is established among students.

# **Leadership Development**

Assigned mentors gain supervisory experience as they work with our teachers.

"Our fellow ended up performing better than most MBA interns. I've been so happy with what she's been able to contribute to the team."

**Arjun Venkataswamy** 2025 Amazon Mentor

# Get started today!

Sep - Jan Confirm company participation

Jan - Feb Finalize project description

Mar - May Niterview teacher candidates

Jun - Aug Supervise teacher project

When you invest in teachers, you impact generations.

Email edilger@igniteducation.org today to spark the future!

# **Board of Directors**



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