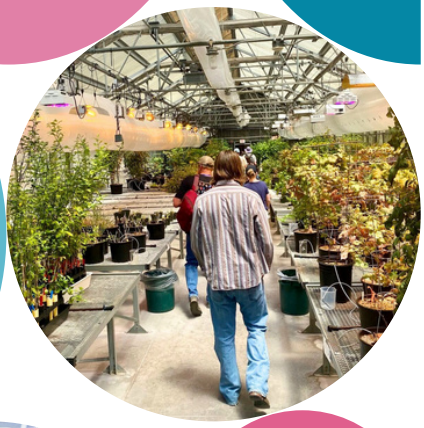
ignited

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECTING CLASSROOMS
TO CAREERS SINCE 1985











www.igniteducation.org



A LETTER FROM Ignited's CEO

2026 was the summer of AI. Across all industries, our partners were talking about it. Teachers of every subject and grade level were eager to see it reshaping the workforce.

In the middle of our programs, I found myself listening to an engineer at Micron describe how he uses AI in chip design. He said something that was repeated by so many others this summer: "I can train someone on content. I can teach the technical skills. What I cannot train for - what new hires have to walk in already knowing - are things like communication, collaboration, creativity, curiosity."

These skills are built and honed by teachers year over year - in elementary classrooms, in middle school group projects, in high school labs. This is where Ignited comes in: we connect the people building those skills to the people shaping the direction of the world, so that kids walk out of school with the durable, human skills needed in the age of AI.

This year, we are proud to have connected 175 teachers with local industry partners, from Samsung to Vulcan Materials, reaching an estimated 23K students across 65 districts.

That local, human connection is the whole point of Ignited's programs, and it's where we need you most. Our growth depends on introductions to engineers, HR leaders, and executives who are passionate about this work. An introduction you make for Ignited can be the start of a teacher's transformation and, years later, a student's.

This is the transformation that starts with an industry project - like an AI-based training tool for semiconductor technicians (p.6) - continues with engaging lessons for students - such as building career profiles featuring durable skills (p.10) - and finally builds a young woman's confidence in a high school physics classroom and sets another student on a path towards his future career as an oncology researcher (p.11).

When you invest in teachers, you impact generations.

Emily Dilger

Emily Dilger, PhD
CEO

Our Programs

Ignited connects educators with industry leaders through immersive experiences that bring real-world skills, innovative thinking, and career relevance into K-14 classrooms.

TEACHER EXPERIENCE | **STUDENT OUTCOMES**

AWARENESS



LEARNING COMMUNITY SEMINARS
1-hour career snapshots, paired with teaching tools
Teachers share open-source lesson plans



EXPOSURE



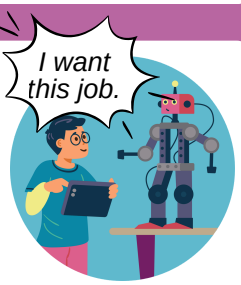
INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE WEEKS
1-week workplace explorations of industry professions
Teachers enhance lessons with career connections



TRANSFORMATION



SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
8-week project-based immersion in industry
Teachers translate industry experience into curriculum



1 teacher X **up to 150 students/yr** X **150 teachers/yr** = **20K+ STUDENTS** annually impacted by Ignited teachers

Our Impact

THIS YEAR, WE OFFERED

- **19** Fellowships
- **6** Industry Experience Weeks
- **7** Learning Community Seminars



SUPPORTED BY

- **29** Funders
- **44** Hosts & Speakers



REACHING

- **175** Teachers
- **127** Schools
- **65** Districts
- **21** Counties



IMPACTING

23,000+
Students



FROM TEACHER → TO THE CLASSROOM

100% increased teacher confidence providing authentic workplace examples

98% increased enthusiasm for teaching

95% helped students understand real world practices

98% increased student learning



Summer Fellowships

19 FELLOWSHIPS | 9 HOST ORGANIZATIONS | 5,320 PROJECT HOURS

Through eight-week summer fellowships, teachers gained firsthand experience at the forefront of industry, from building AI agents and analyzing dark matter signals to running protein purity tests and streamlining global supply chains. Equipped with new industry insights, teachers are transforming their classrooms into spaces where students engage with authentic, career-connected challenges, from mapping quantum atomic models and revising business costs after tariffs to debating the future of AI-generated art.

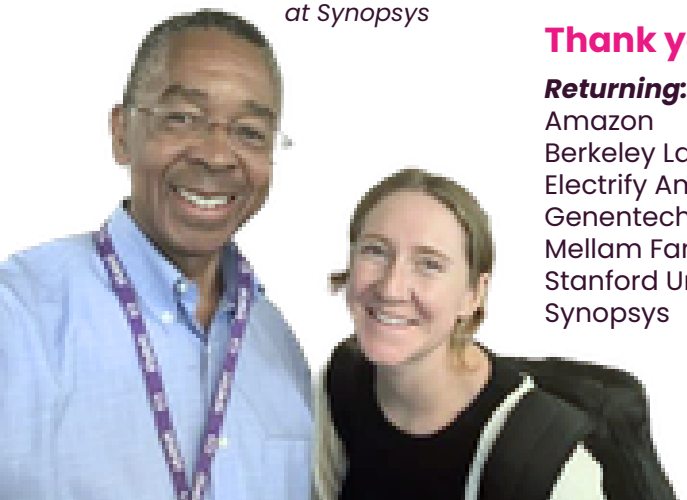
TEACHER OUTCOMES

- **100%** learned about interesting careers they'll share with their students
- **100%** gained increased awareness of the technical and durable skills required for future careers
- **100%** plan to keep in touch with employees or researchers at their host organization



Kristine Tsung at Genentech

"I am coming back to my school a more thoughtful planner, experienced teacher, and confident leader." - **Catherine Sullivan**



Catherine Sullivan and mentor Ron Duncan at Synopsys

Thank you to our sponsors!

Returning:
Amazon
Berkeley Lab
Electrify America
Genentech
Mellam Family Foundation
Stanford University
Synopsys

New:
Joint BioEnergy Institute
Samsung
Western Digital

Fellowship Snapshots



David Malpica and mentor Sheena Truong

Western Digital | Workforce of the Future

David Malpica traded the classroom for the factory floor as an Ignited fellow at Western Digital (WD), the company behind ~40% of the world's hard drives. Working with engineers, he built AI-powered training for technicians, connecting algebra to circuits and semiconductors.

Back in the classroom, David armed his students with screwdrivers to crack open real hard drives. They then turned detective, tracing a hidden hardware security system, and recommending how to safely destroy a decommissioned drive - using the kind of thinking WD engineers rely on to keep the world's data safe.

Amazon Kids & Family Trust Team


Claire Kujawa and Kalena Crafton with mentors Ryan Hamachek and Arjun Venkataswamy

Projects: Supported literacy development in Alexa Kids experiences; built tools to guide family conversations about AI use

Lessons: Guides for educators to build classroom culture using tenets from Amazon

Samsung Memory Solutions Lab


Thomas Wang

Project: Developed AI agent to streamline maintenance of open source projects

Lesson: Coding project scaffolding students' use and analysis of AI

> "I feel empowered having more concrete workplace examples of how durable skills taught in school transfer to careers. " - **Claire Kujawa, Fellow at Amazon**

Experience Weeks

6 WEEKS | 115 TEACHERS | 60 INDUSTRY PARTNERS



AI Literacy

AI across STEM and humanities: how language and careers are changing, and the ethical questions it raises.

FUNDED BY: U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, NOKIA, ELECTRIFY AMERICA, SYNOPSYS OUTREACH FOUNDATION



Science in the City

Exploring San Francisco as a living classroom: water, energy, infrastructure, environmental justice, and sustainability.

FUNDED BY: STANTEC, HDR, PCL CONSTRUCTION



Semiconductor Secrets

Inside the semiconductor industry: the tech, the manufacturing and the hidden careers.

FUNDED BY: APPLIED MATERIALS FOUNDATION, KRAUSE CENTER FOR INNOVATION, SAMSUNG



Bioeconomy

Stanislaus County's circular bioeconomy across biotech, renewable energy, agriculture and biomanufacturing.

FUNDED BY: BEAM CIRCULAR



Sustainable Solutions

Climate solutions and career pathways, seen through the lens of water, wastewater and sustainable mining.

FUNDED BY: EAST BAY MUD, MARATHON PETROLEUM, CENTRAL SAN, VULCAN MATERIALS, DELTA DIABLO



Water with EMWD

Water management in Southern California, from infrastructure and conservation to innovative technologies.

FUNDED BY: EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Experience Weeks


Vulcan


Intel



Advantest


John Deere



NextFlex



GreenWaste

EXPLORE 2 LESSONS FROM THE WEEKS!

Electric Field Mapping

Students map electric fields, then use AI to visualize and verify

10th Grade Physics Lesson

Turning Waste into Community Wealth

Students investigate and pitch local food-to-waste energy solutions

4th Grade English Lesson

"I have always loved and been proud of our area, and this program gave me information to share with my students about the ways that their community is working to create sustainable and profitable jobs locally." - **Bioeconomy Week Participant**

Curriculum Coaches

Our coaches support teachers in translating their industry experience into the classroom-ready lesson plans that are featured in the Resource Library. As practicing educators and Ignited alumni, they provide peer support based on firsthand experience, empathy, and practical insight.


Esme Tovar


Penny Loftesness


Kiruthika Paulvannan


Jennifer Chin


Kerin Coffey


James Stiltner


Liz Metzler


I-Heng McComb

Featured Coach: Debra Dimas



After more than 20 years supporting teachers with Ignited, Debra Dimas is stepping into a well-earned retirement. Beyond her work as an exceptional curriculum coach, she has been a steady, trusted presence throughout more than half of Ignited's history. Along the way, she has provided guidance, encouragement, and expertise that have shaped countless classrooms and educators. Don't worry, we're keeping her on speed dial — ensuring her wisdom and insight remain within reach Ignited's coaching team. Congrats, Debra!


I-Heng McComb, Debra Dimas, Kiruthika Paulvannan, Jenny Chin, Penny Loftesness

"Having access to such dedicated, specialized guidance made a profound difference, helping me seamlessly connect the externship insights directly to my students' language development and learning needs." - **English as a Second Language Teacher**

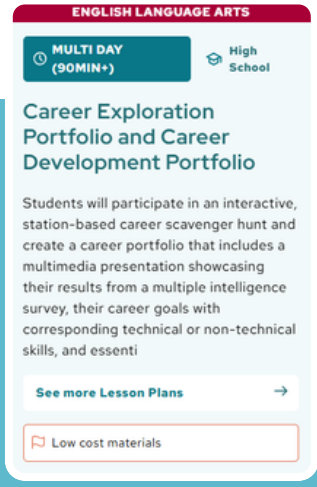
Beyond the Summer

SUMMER IS WHERE THE SPARK STARTS – **THE CLASSROOM IS WHERE IT IGNITES**



A Case Study of One Teacher's Impact

2025 Semiconductor Week participant **Mariam Fan**, a robotics teacher at Los Gatos High School, wrote a lesson plan for students to create career portfolios featuring their durable skills.



Resource Library ☑ PUBLISH

Industry-aligned lesson plans, free for educators nationwide

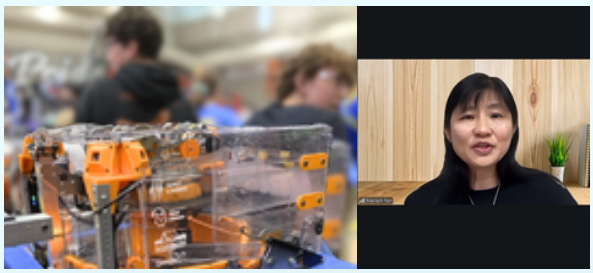
Mariam's lesson plan was published in Ignited's Resource Library, along with 40+ lessons from Ignited's summer 2025 teachers, scaling the summer's reach beyond individual classrooms.

600+ Resources | 100+ Companies Explore the library

Learning Community ☑ PRESENT

Seminars featuring Ignited alumni

During a virtual seminar in spring 2026, **Mariam** presented her robotics lesson and shared teaching tips with fellow educators, including middle school teacher **Leah Johnson**.



Fund for Innovation ☑ POWER UP

Materials for classroom projects



Inspired by Mariam's lesson, **Leah Johnson** applied for funds to purchase Elegoo robot cars. Students practiced problem-solving skills as they programmed the cars to navigate mazes.

Inspired to support teachers beyond the summer? Fill out **this form**.



Sparking the Future

In the full bloom of summer at the O'Donohue Family Stanford Educational Farm, more than 100 Ignited teachers and supporters celebrated summer 2026 and sent our teachers back to the classroom. Thank you to KIPAC for hosting us!

Confidence, today...

Five-time fellow Nicole Padia, who teaches physics at an all-girls high school, brought four of her students to share their STEM journeys. Tessa, a high school senior, shared how teachers like Nicole removed her self-doubt: **"They saw potential that I couldn't yet see."**



Beyond high school, Nicole's students build on this foundation of confidence. Kami, formerly a student leader in Nicole's engineering club, is now a college freshman who aspires to **"foster an environment where girls in STEM feel more invited."**

... a career, three decades later

Ted Graves, now a Stanford radiation oncologist, traced his path to a high school math class taught by Ignited alum Julie Dunkle. A field trip to a semiconductor company changed how he saw math:

"It was a formative experience that connected these abstract concepts in math and science to something that adults were doing in the real world."



Platinum Transparency 2026 Candid.

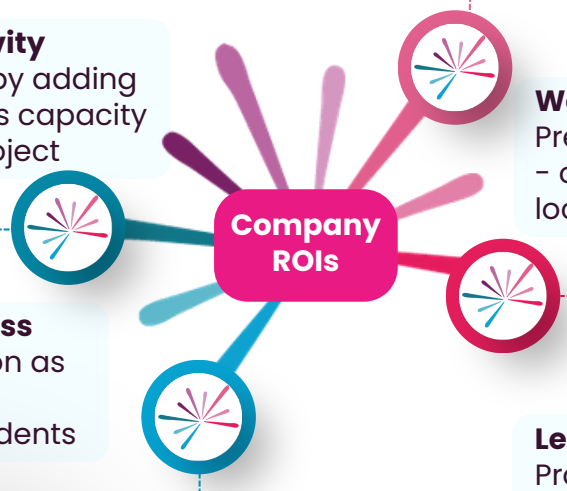
Ignited believes in the power of teachers. A teacher's words changed how a young woman sees her abilities. A teacher's field trip sparked a future cancer researcher. *We can't wait to see where Ignited students go next.*

Invest in teachers. Spark the future.
Ignited is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit; federal tax ID 77-0143865

Shape Tomorrow's Workforce

Output and Productivity
Drive business value by adding a teacher consultant's capacity & perspective to a project

Workforce Development
Prepare your future workforce - one teacher reaches 150 local students per year



Local Brand Awareness
Build name recognition as a forward-thinking institution among students

Leadership Development
Provide team members with supervisory experience



"[Our fellows] brought something we can't get from user research alone — a frontline, up-to-date perspective on how families are actually using tech today. **Their creativity and resourcefulness impressed me at every turn**... **I**f you're in tech and wondering how to bring more diverse voices into your product work, **I can't recommend Ignited enough**."

Catherine Teitelbaum
2026 Amazon Mentor

GET STARTED TODAY!

IT'S AS EASY AS...

1. Confirm company participation
   Sep - Dec
2. Prep for summer with Ignited
   Jan - May
3. Participate in a summer program
   Jun - Aug

Teachers connect their classrooms to your careers

When you invest in teachers, you impact generations.
Fill out **the form** to explore how to get involved!



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