2023 Summer Internship Program
Welcome

Welcome, Georgia high school students, to the Innovation Nation Summer Internship Program, sponsored by Technology Association of Georgia Education Collaborative, Women of AT&T, and Microsoft. This program offers an invaluable opportunity for you to apply your leadership, technology, and collaboration skills in a real-world context. As interns, you will participate in the exciting journey of developing a technology that will make its way to market. You'll experience firsthand the thrill of innovation, the challenges of product development, and the satisfaction of seeing your hard work come to fruition. This journey will surely be transformative, inspiring, and rewarding.

Nation Builders

The Nation Builders Program, founded by Mason West III, has a rich history of nurturing future leaders across the globe. Embodied in its mission is the aim to prepare emerging leaders to serve as agents of positive and prolific change, influencing their peers, governments, and economies.

The organization places a strong emphasis on empowering youth to address problems in their local communities. Participants are trained to formulate effective solutions to these issues and present their ideas to civic, corporate, and nonprofit leaders, fostering a proactive approach to societal advancement. Since its inception, the Nation Builders Program has successfully expanded its reach, now operating in Belgium, Egypt, England, and Mexico.

This international presence allows the organization to tap into a diverse pool of young minds, instilling in them the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the complexities of their respective societies and make meaningful contributions to global development.
In April, students from Arabia Mountain High School, Stephenson High School, Brandon Hall, and Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School showcased their ingenuity in an exciting app development competition. From the many brilliant ideas, competition sponsors selected four teams whose apps showed exceptional promise to be fully developed. A group of Egyptian students from the Emerging Leaders Program developed an idea for a global incubator that will connect the ideas of bright young people to investors, government representatives, and nongovernmental organizations.

As part of your internship, you will play a crucial role in turning these concepts into reality. You will serve as technical support for these teams, aiding in both the development and marketing of these apps. In teams of twelve, you'll work closely with the selected product owners. Under the expert guidance of the Nation Builders Program and TAG-Ed staff and bolstered by the support from Microsoft and Women of AT&T, you will help develop a minimum viable product (MVP). You will also assist in formulating a robust marketing strategy and establishing a comprehensive product testing process.

Your journey begins in June, and by the end of July, you will present your MVP. This internship is an incredible opportunity to apply your skills to real-world challenges, learn from professionals, and contribute to exciting technological innovations.

**Internship Process**

Your journey will kick off with an orientation session on Thursday, June 8, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. From June 12th to June 14th, you will receive training in project management. Starting Friday, June 16, daily one-hour scrum meetings, via Zoom, will become a staple of your internship experience. These meetings will begin with a fifteen-minute whole group discussion with internship supervisors, followed by forty-five minutes of focused time within your project teams for task planning, assignment, and review.

Each day, following the scrum meeting, you will have a twenty-four-hour window to complete small, manageable tasks assigned to you. This iterative process will ensure steady progress and efficient collaboration within your teams. Moreover, to foster deeper connections and facilitate hands-on experiences, we have scheduled three in-person meetings throughout the summer. These sessions will offer opportunities for direct interaction, discussion, and mutual learning. We eagerly await your contributions to this exciting program!
Team Organization

Each project team within the Innovation Nation Internship is composed of four distinct internal teams. The product owners are the original app creators from the Innovation Challenge. The development team codes the app, while the user experience team designs the overall customer experience. The user interface team shapes the interactive elements, and the marketing team develops the branding, advertising, and pricing strategies. You’ve been preassigned to your project and internal teams, with flexibility to switch internal teams if desired.

Important Dates

**June 8th 9:00 am to 10:30 am (EST)**
You will participate in a Zoom orientation session where you will meet your intern supervisor and your team.

**June 12th to 14th 8:00 am to 9:00 am (EST)**
During your first three sessions, you will be trained in project management and agile scrum process of task management.

**June 15th 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**
You will participate in networking with representatives from Microsoft, TAG-Ed, Women of AT&T, Nation Builders, and other program supporters.

**June 16th to July 31st**
You will participate in your daily scrum meetings to complete your minimum viable product by July 31st. *(We will not meet on June 19th or July 4th)*

*The remaining two in-person meetings will occur in July. Those dates will be announced on June 20th.*
Thank You Sponsors and Partners

Heather Maxfield is the Executive Director for the Technology Association of Georgia Education Collaborative. We appreciate this prolific organization’s financial and organizational support.

Erika Smith is the Manager of Microsoft Philanthropies’ Techspark program. Microsoft is the primary funder for the Innovation Nation Summer Internship Program. They also provide funding and facilities for the All Home Safe Innovation Challenge.

Matthew Gardner is the National Chairperson for the Women of AT&T’s All Home Safe Initiative. We thank the Women of AT&T for helping to establish and fund the All Home Safe Innovation Challenge.

Mason West is the Executive Director of the Nation Builders Program. He works with the program sponsors to design and manage the All Home Safe Innovation Challenge and the Innovation Nation Summer Internship Program.