

Student-Led Ideation Challenge (SLIC)

The Commonwealth of Virginia in collaboration with the **Innovative Solutions Consortium (ISC)** is expanding the ISC's Student-Led Ideation Challenge (SLIC), a maker competition that addresses real world challenges through design thinking and hands-on prototyping, to the entire state of Virginia (approximately 400,000 high schoolers) and being audited by school districts from 10 additional states.

"During National Week of Making, we recommit to sparking the creative confidence of all Americans and to giving them the skills, mentors, and resources they need to harness their passion and tackle some of our planet's greatest challenges."

- President Obama
Jun 17, 2016

FACT SHEET: President's Nation of Makers Initiative to Kick Off 2016 National Week of Making

What is SLIC?

SLIC is a program designed to engage students to problem solve for real world issues. It begins by presenting students with a problem, and then provides them with the steps to work together as a team brainstorming ideas, honing in on a solution, verifying and validating the solution by doing research on solutions that are in the marketplace already, developing an implementation plan and estimates on the associated costs, and ultimately building out a prototype. As real world problems are not exclusive to science, technology, and engineering, neither are the solutions. The answer could require a product type of solution (hardware, software, etc.) or a process type of solution (methodology, reorganization, etc.), so the "prototype" can come in a wide range of formats. The universal element is that the SLIC Program encourages creativity and design thinking.

National Support for SLIC

- Ten other states will audit and potentially join this type of initiative under Virginia's leadership in the next challenge cycle
- White House support provided via the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) based on its relevance to National Making programs
- The ISC's SLIC Program, based on its potential positive impact with Maker Movement programs, was one of only 130 organizations out of approximately 1,500 to be formally listed in the White House Press Release Fact Sheet for the National Week of Making that was announced on June 17, 2016

For more information on ways to support the SLIC Program, please email SLIC@isc-connect.org.

Societal Benefits

- Taps into the creativity and innovation of students
- Utilizes crowdsourcing to uncover the best ideas from the broadest audience of solvers
- Provides another dimension when looking at a hard problem
- Better prepares students for the workforce by providing them with workplace simulated experiences and the ability to apply critical thinking

"88% of youth/students (9th-12th grade) say they could lead in solving issues like affordable education, job creation and the war on terrorism."

- USA Today, Front Page, April 2016

Educational Benefits

- Supports existing VA and VDoE goals around personalized/project-based/authentic learning
- Student teams address a real world 'challenge' and own their learning experience
- The learning provided via the students' active participation in the challenge
- Students learn how to problem solve, use critical thinking skills, work collaboratively, and gain real world experience working on meaningful, relevant tasks
- Engages a larger and broader audience of students

"I wanted to send a message to the state that we are invested. It's incredible what these students are doing... We're trying to get our students, like these students, to think cognitively with critical reasoning. That's what we're trying to build."

-Governor Terry McAuliffe, at the ISC Loudoun County Public School Challenge