

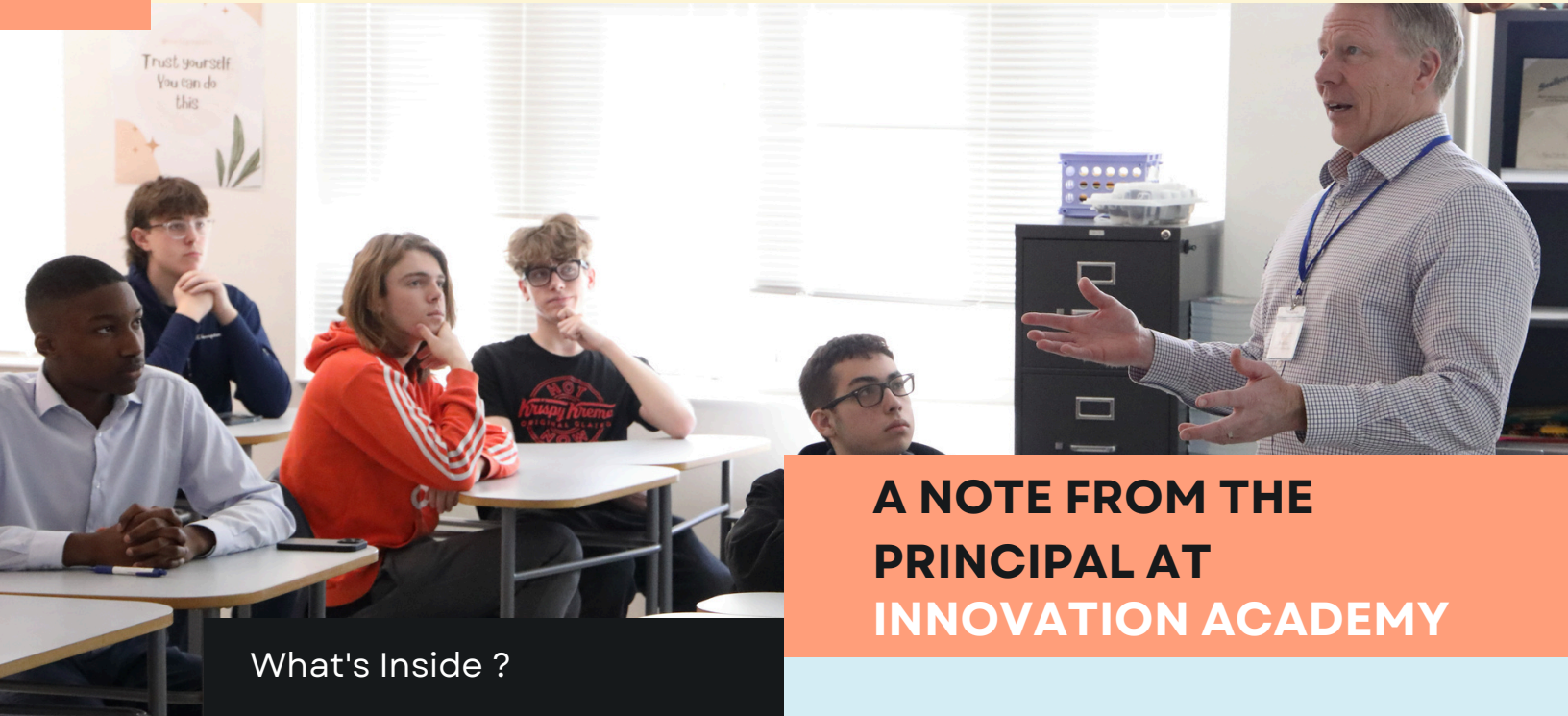
March 2025

# FCS INNOVATION ACADEMY

BUSINESS PARTNER  
NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME TO A NEW SEMESTER OF COLLABORATION!

We are thrilled to embark on another exciting journey with you. To date, we have partnered with over 200 business leaders to revolutionize education, and your support was instrumental in our success. Your expertise is a crucial part of our mission, and we are deeply grateful for your continued collaboration. Together, we can achieve even greater heights!



What's Inside ?

## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL AT INNOVATION ACADEMY

### Cultivate Recap

Our Cultivate event was a tremendous success, featuring over 90 partners who collaborated to enhance our students' professional skills. Check out some partner highlights and the various workshops our students enjoyed!

### IA Showcase

Join us for our IA Showcase on May 1st, where our students will proudly present over 300 projects in the fields of IT, Engineering, Health Science and more. Join us for a fantastic day of celebration and innovation as we showcase their year-long efforts!

### Partner Fundraising Event

We are excited to invite you to our Appreciation and Fundraising Event on May 15th, where we will express our heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable time & talents. This event is also an opportunity to raise funds for future projects, ensuring we continue to innovate and excel together.



*We've had a fantastic year, thanks to your ongoing support and partnership. Our students tackled global challenges during our successful "STEM Spark Day," exploring cutting-edge solutions in transportation. We also launched our inaugural Phoenix Project, focusing this year on addressing Food Insecurity, with plans to take on Natural Disasters next year. And later this year, our health science students will explore all aspects of the medical field at our Save-a-Life event, where our students will respond to a simulated chemical spill disaster.*

*These impactful experiences depend on community support. While Fulton County Schools provides generous backing, your partnership is essential to sustaining and expanding these transformative opportunities. With your support, we can deepen our students' learning, ignite their passion for innovation, and truly make a difference!*



## CULTIVATE

We are thrilled to share the incredible success of our recent Cultivate event. With over 90 business partners in attendance, it was an amazing showing & opportunity for our students to engage with industry professionals. Our students engaged in mock interviews, resume feedback sessions, and various other workshops that focused on preparing them for their future complete with a very motivating keynote speech from Mr. Jerome Huff. Here are some highlight workshops that the students raved about!

### Siemens Digital – Industrial Automation

Business Partner:

**SIEMENS**

Students gained valuable insights from Darwin Newton and his team into various engineering paths and had hands-on experience with training modules for automation systems.

### Scaling from \$0 to \$1M in Under 12 Months!

Business Partner:



In this workshop, students worked with Mr. Avishek Ganguly to understand the nuances of starting and running a business, learning the essential components needed to avoid failure and the common pitfalls made by others.

### How to Future Proof Yourself in the Age of AI

Business Partner:



Students explored how AI, the metaverse, blockchain, & Web3 work together to transform industries and societies globally. This seminar with Xiao Zeng provided insights into the interconnected future of technology and how students can strategically prepare to stay ahead in this evolving landscape.

### Perfecting Your Pitch – Telling Your Story in 30 Seconds

Business Partner:



Students worked with Chelsie Willis to craft and confidently deliver an elevator pitch showcasing their strengths, goals, and aspirations. This interactive session provided students with an essential communication skill they can use beyond the classroom.

### The Five Keys to Success in Business

Business Partner:



In this workshop with Mr. Brian Will, students learned the 5 key components of launching a successful business from a multi-millionaire who started from the very bottom and helped build multiple companies worth over half a billion dollars.

### Living a Healthy Lifestyle

Business Partner:



Students heard from Kennedy Koonce and Taylor Middleton about the responsibilities of a PT, including assessing patients, developing treatment plans, guiding exercises, and providing recommendations for diet, exercise, sleep, & weightlifting to improve patient outcomes.



# Innovation Academy's

# CULTIVATE

CONNECTIONS CONFIDENCE CURIOSITY

*Thank You to our Sponsors!*





# TEDxIA

FCS Innovation Academy Youth

## A NIGHT OF INSPIRATION IDEAS CHANGE

On February 20th, 2025, Innovation Academy hosted its first TEDxIA event, uniting students, educators, and community leaders for a night of inspiration and change. The theme, "The Spark," focused on small moments and ideas that ignite bigger passions or movements. Speakers covered diverse topics, from birthday cards to Snoop Dogg's influence, cultural roots, social disparities, and challenging norms. Reflecting on this success, the TEDxIA committee is excited for next year's event, promising fresh perspectives and dynamic conversations. TEDxIA 2025 was just the beginning! - Matthew Huang





# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2025

[Sign Up Here!](#)



## IT Flex Fridays

**1.31**  
**3.21**  
**4.18**

IT Flex Fridays are designed to give our students hands on, real world learning experiences connecting to Information technology. Topics our IT students are exploring are web development, programming, networking, AI, cryptography, game design and more!



## Engineering Flex Fridays

**2.07**  
**3.14**  
**4.04**

Engineering Flex Fridays are designed to give our students hands on, real world learning experiences connecting to Engineering. Topics our engineering students are exploring include ENG process design, hand tools, solidworks, 3d printing, pneumatics, welding and more!



## Health Science Flex Fridays

**2.14**  
**4.25**

Health science Flex Fridays are designed to give our students hands on, real world learning experiences connecting to health science. Topics our HS students are exploring include patient care, nutrition, EMR, Biotechnology, Surgical tech and more!

## FLEX Fridays

On any given Flex Friday, we are asking for our Business Partners to help us with any of the following:

- Run a 2 hour workshop on skills relating to your field from either 10:15 - 12:15 or 2:00 - 4:00 (or both)!
- Give a TED talk style seminar
- Teach soft skills needed for the real world
- Present a real world problem solving challenge



## 2.28: Cultivate

Cultivate is a dedicated day for immersing our community in teaching professional-ready skills, designed to help students become well-rounded, confident, and connected with business and higher education leaders.



## 3.28: Save-A-Life

Offers students an intense, hands-on experience with emergency medical care through a simulated disaster drill. Teams of students tackle realistic challenges, from first aid to CPR, and work together in a mass casualty scenario to hone their life-saving skills in a dynamic, immersive setting.



## 5.01: Showcase

Join us for the showcase event, where students present their year-long projects, highlighting their creativity and innovation. Discover the unique solutions and original ideas they've developed over months of dedicated work.





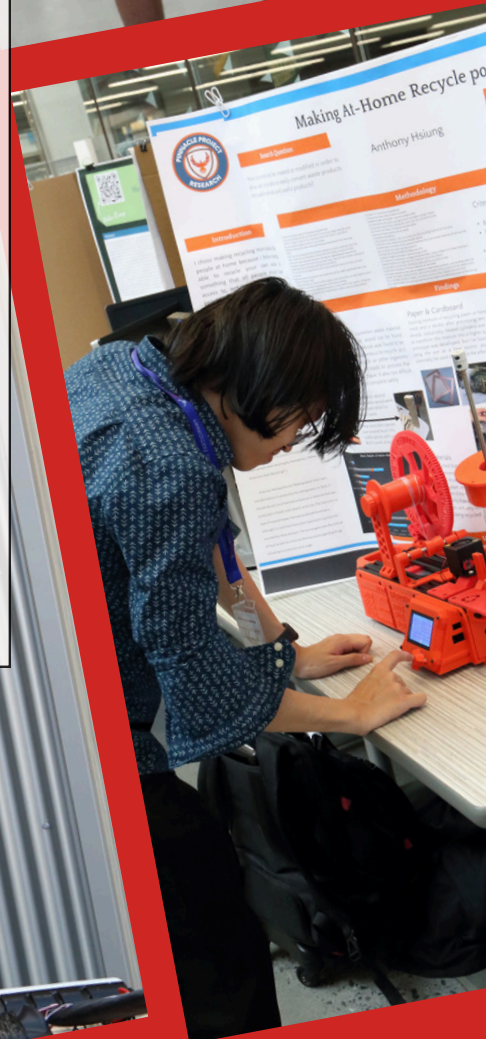
You are cordially invited



**May 1st 2025**

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Discover the innovative and  
original projects our students  
created this year!





# HIGHLIGHT

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### **JAWANZA LAMAR - PARKINGSITES**

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Mr. Lamar and his team have been collaborating with our students for several months, focusing on improving accessibility through technology, education, and advocacy. By sharing his personal experiences, Mr. Lamar has helped our students develop a profound sense of empathy.



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### **JEROME HUFF - GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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Mr. Huff was our keynote speaker for Cultivate, delivering a powerful message about the importance of our diverse backgrounds and personal stories. He emphasized that we should not be afraid to share our stories, and that our origins can motivate, fuel, and inspire us to become who we aspire to be.



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### **DR. JASON REINGOLD - GEORGIA INTEGRATIVE CARDIOLOGY**

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Dr. Reingold has been an exceptionally active new business partner of IA sitting on our CTAE Advisory Board. He also hosted a workshop during Cultivate on Integrative Cardiology, demonstrating to students how to achieve optimal heart wellness. Additionally, he generously provided discounted scans to our teachers and volunteers!



# FUEL THE ROCKET

## Fundraising Campaign

\$20,000

\$15,000

\$10,000

\$5,000



**INNOVATION  
ACADEMY**  
FOUNDATION

### Innovation Academy's Vision and Mission

#### Vision

To develop innovative leaders for a dynamic world.

#### Mission

To provide relevant experiences that help students develop innovative solutions for real-world problems.

### Fuel the Rocket Campaign

We need your support to continue this journey. The Fuel the Rocket Campaign aims to raise funds to propel our "dream big" projects into reality, providing students with the tools and opportunities they need to thrive.

#### How You Can Help

We seek support from business partners, the community, alumni, and anyone who believes in the power of innovation and education. Every contribution, large and small, brings us closer to our goal.

#### Join Us

Be a part of this incredible journey. Let's dream big, innovate, and create a brighter future together.

### RSVP to Our Partner Appreciation and Fundraising Event

We invite you to join us at our Partner Appreciation and Fundraising Event. Your presence and support will make a significant impact. Please **RSVP HERE** to confirm your attendance.

**Donate Here Today!**





# FUEL THE ROCKET

Help Fund Our Future Aspirations!



## Vizion Racing

Vizion Racing is a student-led engineering team from Innovation Academy, dedicated to designing and building a Formula-style race car from scratch.

Founded in May 2024, the project provides hands-on experience in mechanical engineering, electrical systems, and project management. Supported by faculty and industry mentors, the team aims to push the boundaries of student-driven automotive innovation.

**[Watch student proposal HERE!](#)**

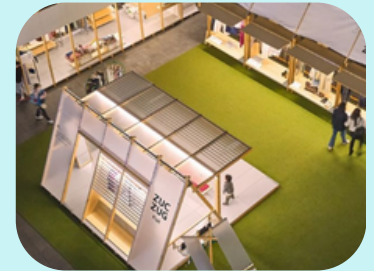
**Cost: \$45,000**



## Outdoor Learning Space

is a transformative addition to the campus focusing on sustainable design elements. This offers students a unique environment for learning and collaboration. Located just steps away from downtown Alpharetta, this outdoor classroom is designed to foster creativity and teamwork through hands-on projects and interactive sessions.

**Cost: \$25,000**



## Student-Designed Biodome

Innovation Academy is an addition to our campus, showcasing the ingenuity and creativity of our students. This biodome-style structure serves as a controlled environment for various projects and lab experiments, with a particular focus on plant growth, soil health, and moisture management. The innovative design incorporates sustainable building solutions, making it a model for eco-friendly construction.

**Cost: \$5000**



## Personalized Cloud Computing Environment

The Virtual Innovation Cloud Environment at Innovation Academy empowers students to develop internal applications, enhancing skills in cybersecurity, embedded technology, and programming. This hands-on platform provides real-world experience, fostering technical proficiency, collaboration, and innovation, and preparing students for future tech careers.

**Cost: \$5,000**



## High Tech Hives

Students engage in projects centered around the retention pond and native pollinator plants, tracking honey bees through micro RFID tags and gaining a deeper understanding of their niche and vital role in our environment. This initiative not only enhances our educational experience but also promotes awareness of ecological sustainability and the importance of pollinators.

**Cost: \$5000**



FCS Innovation Academy Presents

# INNOVATE IT: THE FUTURE SUMMIT

***ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION?***

*JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER FOR OUR INNOVATE IT CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 3RD HOSTED BY FCS INNOVATION ACADEMY. INNOVATE IT WILL OFFER A UNIQUE BLEND OF WORKSHOPS, FEEDBACK SESSIONS, AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES DESIGNED TO EMPOWER AND EDUCATE BOTH STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS.*

**Participants:** High School IT Students & Teachers

**When:** October 3rd, 2025

**Where:** 125 Milton Ave, Alpharetta, GA 30009

**Seeking:** Industry specialists to sponsor/lead workshops within the following tracks:

Artificial Intelligence

Web Application

Data & Security

Game Design

Teacher Professional Development

Feedback Sessions

**VOLUNTEER HERE TODAY**





INNOVATION  
ACADEMY  
FOUNDATION

# Innovation Academy Foundation STEM SUMMER CAMP

*The IAF Summer STEM Camp offers students an exciting opportunity to dive into the worlds of IT, Engineering, and Health Science. With a strong focus on science and math, participants will engage in hands-on projects and experiences that foster creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. Whether it's coding, building engineering prototypes, or exploring health science technologies, students will gain valuable skills and knowledge to inspire their future careers.*

## DIVE INTO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- **HEALTH SCIENCE: INDUSTRY SIMULATIONS, SKILLS AND GAINING EMPATHY**
- **ENGINEERING: PROTOTYPING, DESIGN AND BUILDING**
- **IT: CODING, COMPUTER HARDWARE, AND GAME DESIGN**
- **SCIENCE: PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY**

**Where: FCS Innovation Academy**

**125 Milton Ave Alpharetta, GA 30009**

**Date: July 14th – July 18th, 2025**

**9:00am – 3:00pm**

**Grades: Rising 7th & 8th Graders**

**Cost: \$350**

**Registration: STEM CAMP REGISTRATION**

Space is limited! You are responsible for bringing your own lunch and transportation to and from IA, no before or after care will be provided. Participation in this camp in no way guarantees acceptance to IA in the future.

# WORK-BASED LEARNING

## PURPOSE:

Work-based learning aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom and practical application in real-world settings. By integrating hands-on experiences into education, this approach equips students with the skills, competencies, and insights necessary for success in their chosen fields. The primary purpose is to enhance learning through direct engagement with the workplace, fostering a deeper understanding of industry dynamics and preparing individuals for the demands of their future careers.

## EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS FOCUS:

Attitude	Initiative	Flexibility
Organization	Discipline	Integrity
Respect	Effective Communication	Teamwork
Attendance and Punctuality	Ethics	Professionalism
Adherence to Policy	Technology Usage and Social Media	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

## BENEFITS:

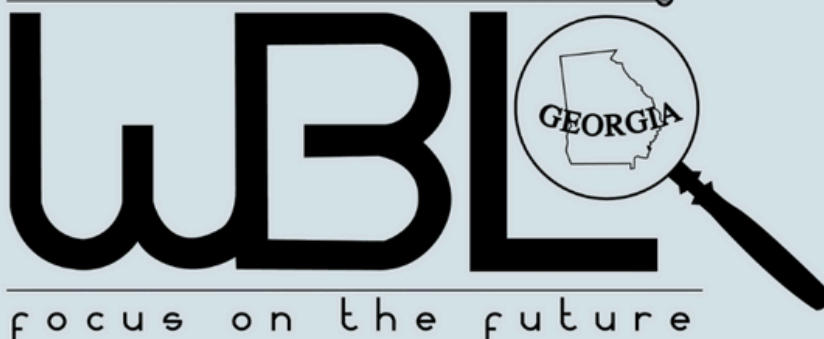
1. Increased Engagement and Motivation
2. Practical Application of Knowledge
3. Enhanced Retention and Understanding
4. Development of Critical Thinking Skills
5. Promotion of Teamwork and collaboration
6. Personal and Emotional Development
7. Preparation for the Real World
8. Increased Interest in Learning
9. Alignment with Career Readiness
10. Life-Long Learning Mindset

1. Tailored Workforce Development
2. Increased Productivity and Performance
3. Cost-Effective Recruitment
4. Reduced Onboarding Time
5. Customized Training Programs
6. Enhanced Employee Retention
7. Innovation and Fresh Perspectives
8. Stronger Talent Pipeline
9. Positive Employer Branding

FOR STUDENTS

FOR EMPLOYERS

work-based learning







# INNOVATION ACADEMY

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