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ANNUAL REPORT



Building a community of young
people working to create positive
social impact using technology



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friends, this has been an unparalleled year for us all. Beginning 2020 with a strong plan for growth, we looked forward to expanding our internship program, launching a competition, and gathering our community in person to celebrate the accomplishments of what promised to be a big year. Alas, it was not to be. When COVID-19 began to impact our area, we felt compelled to do our part by giving grants to multiple nonprofit organizations still operating and helping those in need.

Despite the challenges we faced beginning an internship program in the middle of a pandemic, we have remained focused on our mission to grow and support our community of young people creating positive social impact using technology. I am pleased to share with you that we have now established agreements at five universities for **Neilom Social Impact Interns** to work on projects with real impact. These include a novel ventilator design, prediction of the spread of the covid-19 virus, robotic autonomous surgery, food insecurity app development, and more. With these projects we are encouraging future leaders in using their technical skills to help others, something they are passionate about doing.

We've also launched our pilot competition, entitled **Fresh Approaches using Science and Technology (FAST)**. The competition encourages undergraduate and graduate students to submit a compelling video of two minutes or less, highlighting an important problem facing young people either locally or internationally, along with their creative or unusual solution. We're looking forward to expanding our next round of the competition to all of our partner universities in 2021.

May all of you be healthy, safe and peaceful as we bring 2020 to a close and welcome the new year. Thank you to all of you who have supported us, and welcome to those who are just learning of our efforts. It is my hope that you share our joy in seeing these talented young people thriving and using technology for good. In their hands, our future looks bright.



Davinder K. Anand

Executive Director, The Neilom Foundation

OUR IMPACT

41

**AWARDS GRANTED TO
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS**

39

**FELLOWS, INTERNS,
AND PRIZES**
21 FEMALE, 19 MINORITY

430

**COLLEGE STUDENTS
ENGAGED**
168 MINORITY, 129 FEMALE

785

**PARTICIPANTS DIRECTLY
IMPACTED THROUGH OUR
PROGRAMS**

11,655

TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED



NEILOM SOCIAL IMPACT INTERNS

This year we established our new Neilom Social Impact Interns program. In coordination with local universities, we are providing paid opportunities for excited and engaged undergraduate students in technical fields to intern on projects with a social benefit. We have established our program at the following institutions, and look forward to expanding our reach in 2021.

SOCIAL IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Students recognized by the Neilom Foundation this year have been deeply involved in creating a positive impact in their communities and beyond. The following is a selection of our award winners this year.



I'SHEA BOYD

I'Shea Boyd is the creator of **BitView**, a successful program where college student volunteers reach back and mentor minority students in high schools. With support from the Neilom Foundation in 2020, her program successfully expanded to Bowie High School in teaching students coding and college readiness.

“The Neilom Foundation has been a key supporter in BitView’s successful transition to an online coding academy ... by providing resources that allowed us to continue to foster communities that aid young scholars in preparation for college and beyond.”



KAREN RIUS

Karen Rius was one of two winners of the **2020 Neilom Social Impact Prize** at **The George Washington University**. As the Director of George Hacks, she leads students in developing technology-driven medical solutions in a hackathon format. The Foundation was proud to also support the George Hacks group directly in 2020, creating real world impact.

"To receive the Neilom Prize for Social Impact was a tremendous honor. It was truly inspiring to see another organization working toward creating a platform for students to innovate and impact their communities through science and technology. To be among those students motivates me to continue to make a change everyday."

Christina Nikiforidou is an international student from Greece majoring in Mechanical Engineering. She is currently working on the **Tools and Techniques for Pandemics project** at the Center for Engineering Concepts Development as a Neilom Social Impact Intern. She is conducting team research into the dynamics of COVID-19, using machine learning to design models to predict the spread of the disease.



**CHRISTINA
NIKIFORIDOU**

"I am truly grateful for the support I have received from the Neilom Foundation, and it has been a great experience working on the TTP project."



**PIYUSH
CHANANA**

Piyush Chanana was the winner of this year's **Neilom Prize at IIT Delhi in assistive technology**. Piyush has reported to The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the WHO on the needs of blind users, and has conducted training workshops both in India and internationally. He is the product manager for the laboratory's flagship product, Smartcane, which has reached 80,000 users.

"I have a small role in this award. I give credit to the team that worked with me on this for eight years."

Zachary McDonough worked in Minnesota on a Foundation-supported internship with nonprofit Good Neighbors Inc. following the 2020 riots in the area. He helped rebuild businesses damaged by the riots, and developed a hands-on understanding of practical nonprofit management during his time there.



**ZACHARY
MCDONOUGH**

"I had an incredible experience helping Good Neighbors accomplish their major projects. I'm extremely grateful for these opportunities created by the foundation."

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED IN 2020

The Neilom Foundation supported the following organizations during 2020 in recognition of their efforts to continue helping young people during the early days of the pandemic.



Border Kindness
Bondad Frontera



Providing food, medical care and clothing to asylum-seekers on the Mexican border and local families.

Manna Food Center continues to serve those who are food insecure in Montgomery County, Maryland.



Provides immediate assistance to students facing unanticipated emergency financial need at the University of Maryland.

Serving millions of meals throughout the country to food insecure families.

Continuing to fight homelessness and hunger for families in Waldorf, Maryland.

Providing food, clothing and necessities for children and families in need in Charles County, Maryland.



CRISIS TEXT LINE |



Working to alleviate extreme poverty and violence in Honduras through education and youth empowerment.

Providing online support to those struggling with mental health issues, particularly during the pandemic.

Providing food, clothing and housing to families in need in Southern Maryland.

Helping children in one of DC's most under-resourced communities so that they graduate ready for success.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED AT



