

August 2025

FCS INNOVATION ACADEMY

BUSINESS PARTNER
NEWSLETTER

INNOVATION ACADEMY IS OFFICIALLY IN ITS 5TH
YEAR OF CHANGING EDUCATION!

We are excited to embark on a new year of developing innovative leaders for a dynamic world through authentic learning experiences that challenge students to design meaningful solutions to real-world problems in a rigorous, collaborative, and interdisciplinary environment.



What's Inside?

Class of '25 Stats

We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2025 and all they've accomplished—watching them take the next step toward their futures at such a diverse and impressive range of colleges fills us with joy and admiration. Their hard work, resilience, and passion have truly paid off!

Innovate IT Conference - 10/3

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.

Cultivate - 11/14

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.



A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL AT FCS INNOVATION ACADEMY

We're excited to kick off this year with a renewed focus on preparing our students for the world they'll enter. The World Economic Forum predicts that 39% of today's job skills will be obsolete by 2030—making it more important than ever to provide a rich, dynamic, and meaningful education. Achieving that vision takes strong partnerships, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such vibrant, engaged, and supportive collaborators.

I hope you'll continue to be deeply involved this year as we guide our students to become the next generation of leaders—both in our community and across the globe. We have so many exciting opportunities ahead, and I can't wait to see you in our building, working alongside students and sharing the knowledge and skills that only you can offer.

SHOWCASE 2025

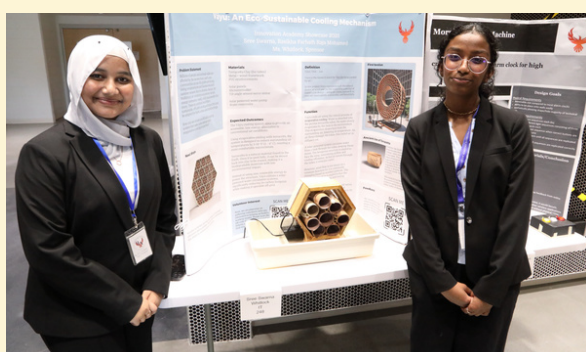
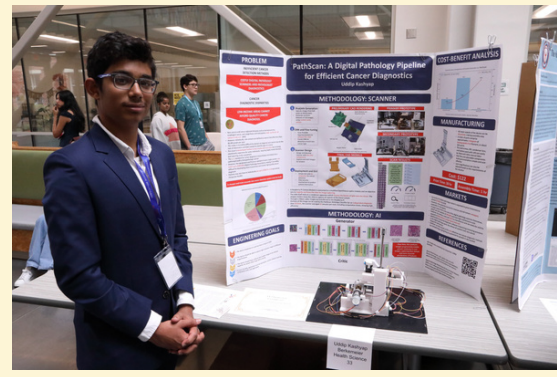
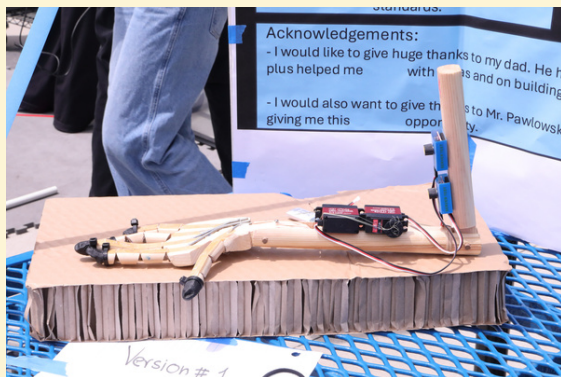
We are thrilled to share that this past year's Innovation Academy Showcase was a phenomenal success, featuring 267 student-led projects that pushed the boundaries of creativity, research, and innovation.

From AI-powered healthcare tools and sustainable engineering solutions to genetic research, interactive art, and autonomous vehicles, our students demonstrated not only technical skills but also a deep commitment to solving real-world problems.

Key themes included:

- **Technology & Engineering:** Self-driving go-karts, robotics, and smart city solutions.
- **Sustainability:** Eco-friendly air conditioning, aquaponics, and biodegradable materials.
- **Healthcare & Wellness:** Patient care clinics, mental health apps, and biomedical devices.
- **Creative Arts & Communication:** Game design, storytelling, and visual media.

The energy, passion, and innovation on display were truly inspiring. A heartfelt thank you to our students, staff, and community partners who made this event possible. Your dedication continues to shape the future of learning and leadership.

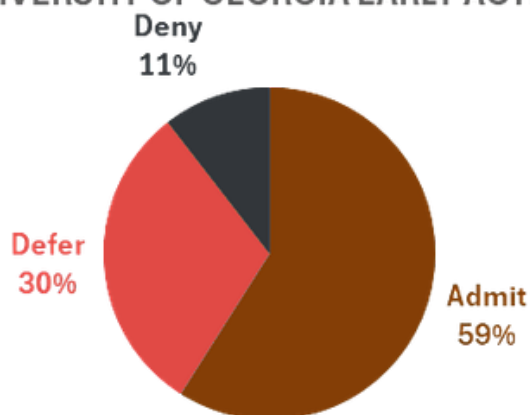




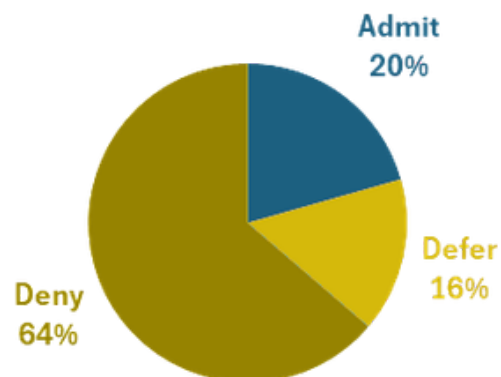
UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EARLY ACTION



GEORGIA TECH EARLY ACTION



Our ambitious, high achieving students have exceeded our expectations year after year. **29** of our students were National Merit Semi-finalists, and **28** were National Merit Finalists.



COLLEGES WHERE CLASS OF 2025 SENIORS WERE ACCEPTED

Adelphi University
 Appalachian State University
 Auburn University
 Augusta University
 Barnard College of Columbia University
 Baylor University
 Belmont University
 Boston College
 Brandeis University
 Brown University
 Buffalo State College
 Carleton College
 Case Western Reserve University
 Central Washington University
 Clemson University
 Colgate University
 Colorado College
 Colorado School of Mines
 Colorado State University
 Columbia College Chicago
 Cornell University
 Davidson College
 Drexel University
 Duke University
 Eastern Connecticut State University
 Elmira College
 Elon University
 Emerson College
 Emory University
 Fairfield University
 Florida Institute of Technology
 Florida State University
 Fordham University
 Furman University
 George Washington University
 Georgia College and State University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Georgia Southern University
 Georgia State University
 Harvard University
 High Point University
 Howard University
 Indiana University Indianapolis
 Johns Hopkins University
 Kennesaw State University

Lewis & Clark College
 Louisiana State University
 Loyola University New Orleans
 Lynn University
 Macalester College
 Maryland Institute College of Art
 Mercer University
 Meredith College
 Miami University: Oxford
 Middle Tennessee State University
 Millsaps College
 Mississippi State University
 Montclair State University
 Morehouse College
 New York Institute of Technology
 New York University
 Newberry College
 North Carolina A & T State University
 North Carolina State University
 Northwestern University
 Oberlin College
 Oglethorpe University
 Oregon Institute of Technology
 Pace University
 Pennsylvania College of Art and Design
 Pennsylvania State University
 Purdue University
 Queens University of Charlotte
 Quinnipiac University
 Radford University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Rhodes College
 Rice University
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Roger Williams University
 Rollins College
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
 Saint Joseph's University
 Samford University
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 Sewanee: The University of the South
 Simmons University
 South Carolina State University
 St. John's College
 St. John's University

SUNY University at Binghamton
 Temple University
 Texas Christian University
 Trinity College
 Tulane University
 University of Alabama
 University of Arkansas
 University of California: Berkeley
 University of California: Irvine
 University of California: San Diego
 University of Colorado: Boulder
 University of Connecticut
 University of Delaware
 University of Denver
 University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Kentucky
 University of Louisville
 University of Miami
 University of Minnesota: Twin Cities
 University of North Carolina at Asheville
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 University of North Florida
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Rhode Island
 University of Rochester
 University of San Francisco
 University of South Carolina-Columbia
 University of Southern California
 University of Tampa
 University of Tennessee
 University of Utah
 University of Vermont
 University of Virginia
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
 Vanderbilt University
 Wake Forest University
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Western Carolina University
 Western New England University
 Yale University



Innovation
Academy

Phoenix Project Moonshot Recap

*Empowering Global Citizens to Respond
Locally to Natural Disasters.*

On Friday, August 15th, we launched the second annual Phoenix Project, a school-wide initiative aimed at empowering students to become global citizens through hands-on exploration of natural disaster preparedness and response. This year's theme, "Think Globally, Act Locally," encourages students to tackle real-world challenges with innovative, community-focused solutions.

We were honored to welcome representatives from 10 leading disaster response organizations—including the Georgia National Guard, Salvation Army, Southern Company, UPS, AT&T, Grady Medical, and others—for a full day of interactive seminars. These sessions provided students with firsthand insights into how professionals prepare for and respond to natural disasters, and how students themselves can contribute meaningfully.

Throughout the day, students engaged in reflection and began identifying topics they'll explore in small groups over the semester. Their goal: to design and prototype solutions that address global disaster-related challenges with local impact. We're excited to collaborate with our business partners as students move from ideation to innovation—and potentially to real-world implementation.





AT&T



Grady



American
Red Cross



INNOVATION
ACADEMY
FOUNDATION



iVueRobotics



Southern
Company



CONVOY OF
HOPE®

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR
OUR PHOENIX PROJECT!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2025

[Sign Up Here!](#)



Phoenix Project Seminars

- 8.15** The 2nd annual Phoenix Project is d "Think Globally, Act Locally." This initiative aims to foster global citizenship by educating students on natural disasters and encouraging innovative solutions. We seek business partners and volunteers to host seminars on how to react as a community to hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, forest fires and more.



Engineering Flex Fridays

- 9.12** 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!
- 10.24**
- 12.5**



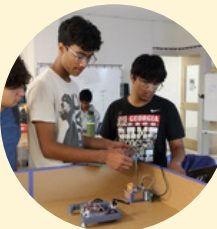
Health Science Flex Fridays

- 9.19** 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!
- 10.10**
- 11.7**



IT Flex Fridays

- 10.31** 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!
- 12.12**



10.3 Innovate IT: IT Conference

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.



11.14 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.



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

HIGHLIGHT

LORI WOOD - GRADY MEDICAL SYSTEM

We were thrilled to welcome Lori Wood, VP of System Emergency Management at Grady Health System, as the keynote speaker for our Phoenix Project kickoff. With a background in firefighting, paramedicine, and emergency management, Lori shared powerful insights on disaster preparedness and community resilience. Her message inspired students to take action locally while thinking globally—perfectly aligning with our project's mission.



JACOB ANDREWS - IVUE

We're proud to highlight Jacob Andrews, founder of iVue, for his continued partnership with Innovation Academy. Over the years, Jacob has led engaging and impactful workshops across multiple events, bringing real-world tech and innovation expertise directly to our students. His commitment to empowering the next generation of problem-solvers makes him an invaluable part of our Phoenix Project and broader school community.



NATALIE ROVER - GMC NETWORK

A group of Innovation Academy students participated in the GMC Design Thinking Workshop, where they collaborated with industry professionals to redesign GMC's office space. Over three days, students explored real-world challenges, brainstormed solutions, built prototypes, and presented their ideas to Natalie and the GMC staff. The experience gave students hands-on exposure to STEM careers and strengthened their skills in creativity, teamwork, and communication.



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's Professional Ready Skills Day

11.14.2025

CULTIVATE
CONNECTIONS CONFIDENCE CURIOSITY
CULTIVATE

What is Cultivate?

THE MISSION OF IA'S PROFESSIONAL READY SKILLS DAY IS TO ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY IN FOSTERING ESSENTIAL CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS SKILLS. OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO BECOME MORE WELL-ROUNDED AND CONFIDENT, WHILE BUILDING VALUABLE CONNECTIONS WITH PROFESSIONALS FROM BOTH THE BUSINESS SECTOR AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

How can you help?

WE RELY ON OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO HELP FACILITATE WORKSHOPS INTRODUCING VARIOUS SKILLS. BELOW IS A LIST OF POTENTIAL WORKSHOPS:

- RESUME FEEDBACK
- MOCK INTERVIEWS
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- TIME MANAGEMENT & STUDY SKILLS
- FINANCIAL LITERACY
- SAVING FOR RETIREMENT
- SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH & APPLICATION STRATEGIES
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- JOB OPPORTUNITIES & INTERNSHIPS
- ETHICAL DILEMMAS
- ELEVATOR SPEECHES/PUBLIC SPEAKING
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- CONFLICT RESOLUTIONS
- NEGOTIATION
- SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE
- COLLEGE RESEARCH
- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP
- TEAMWORK & COLLABORATION

Scan or click on QR code for more information and to register to participate.



FUEL THE ROCKET

Fundraising Campaign

\$20,000

17,300 Raised

\$15,000

\$10,000

\$5,000



**INNOVATION
ACADEMY**
FOUNDATION

Innovation Academy's Vision

To develop innovative leaders for a dynamic world. Our students experience a rigorous, collaborative environment that connects Career Pathways, STEM, and Humanities, fostering lifelong learning through design thinking and research skills.

Our 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. These projects are essential to our mission, 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, no matter how 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.

Donate Here Today!



FUEL THE ROCKET

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



Tiny Doors Alpharetta

We hope to take students on an inspiring trip to see the famous Tiny Doors ATL public art installations in downtown Atlanta, where creativity meets community in a series of whimsical, seven-inch doors. After exploring these imaginative works, our students will use 3D scanners, CAD software, and 3D printers to design and build their own creative and artistic doors for the city of Alpharetta. This project will give students hands-on experience in advanced design and fabrication tools while fostering civic pride and sparking joy for residents and visitors alike.

Cost: \$1000



Personalized Cloud Computing Environment

The Virtual Innovation Cloud Environment at IA 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 preparing students for future tech careers.

Cost: \$5,000



Student-Designed Biodome

We are enhancing our existing biodome with an environmental monitoring and control system. This upgrade will include sensors to track soil moisture, temperature, and humidity, along with automated watering and temperature regulation. These improvements will allow students to study plant growth in a fully controlled environment, conduct experiments with real-time data, and develop skills in environmental science, engineering, and coding. By blending sustainable agriculture with cutting-edge technology, this project will transform the biodome into a living laboratory for innovation and discovery.

Cost: \$3000



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





INNOVATION ACADEMY

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