

The New Media Consortium (NMC) 2017 Award Submission

Innovation - How is the institution creative, forward-thinking, ahead of the game, and/or reflects an innovator status of a new pedagogical integration of technology? (250 words maximum)

In an increasingly competitive knowledge-based economy, earning a degree has never been more necessary to success. It has also never been less affordable. As today's learners confront new barriers to higher education access, the need for a reimagined framework has escalated.

Arizona State University (ASU) and edX partnered to create Global Freshman Academy (GFA), a unique collaboration offering first year college-level courses for academic credit on the edX platform. Students enroll in freshman-level GFA courses for free, building confidence in their college readiness with the option to earn academic credit for their work. Because students only pay for credit after they've successfully passed their courses, GFA significantly reduces the financial risk students undertake as they begin their college careers.

MAT 117: College Algebra & Problem Solving is a GFA course aimed at helping students clear one of the most challenging hurdles on the path to success in higher education: math. GFA College Algebra uses the adaptive learning tool ALEKS to more effectively teach freshman level mathematics at scale. ALEKS accurately assesses a student's zone of proximal development and provides the student with detailed, high-frequency feedback on his/her performance throughout the course.

GFA College Algebra combines this personalized, adaptive approach with a scalable coaching model that employs trained undergraduate coaches to provide reusable video answers to student questions and data-driven interventions to improve the study habits of struggling students.

Scalability - How has this institution demonstrated application across BOTH the institution/organization and among other institutions/organizations? (250 words maximum)

GFA College Algebra has attracted 51,000 students across 196 countries. The GFA College Algebra team has assessed 1,450,000 math skills for the 30,000 most active students. The team has helped these students learn and master 382,000 new skills, and 613 students have mastered all of the College Algebra curriculum. Now entering its second year, GFA College Algebra continues to enroll 500+ new students a week with increasing rates of persistence.

ASU has begun to leverage GFA's course offerings, including College Algebra, to provide a pathway to college entrance for Starbucks partners (employees) who aren't currently admissible to the university. The Starbucks College Achievement Plan Pathway

to Admission allows partners to work toward admission into ASU by successfully completing a set of GFA courses. Partners can go on to pursue their undergraduate degree through ASU Online and the Starbucks College Achievement Plan, with 100% tuition reimbursement.

ASU and Kepler have partnered together to create The BOLD Project (Borderless Opportunities for Learning and Development), a pilot project designed to assess the applicability of GFA courses within the refugee sphere. The project currently combines adaptive digital learning technology with locally facilitated support to provide flexible higher education pathways to refugees living in the Kiziba Refugee Camp in Rwanda. Twenty-three Kepler Kiziba refugee students are currently enrolled in GFA College Algebra through The BOLD Project.

Quality - How has this institution demonstrated successful outcomes across BOTH the institution/organization and among other institutions/organizations? (250 words maximum)

ASU Preparatory Academies are innovative K-12 charter schools where teachers, students, and families share the same goal: college graduation. Their mission is to afford students an optimum environment for learning, help them achieve their potential, and ensure the appropriate level of college readiness. In August 2016, ASU implemented a GFA Math Pilot program within two ASU Preparatory Academy high schools: ASU Prep Poly High School and ASU Prep Phoenix High School. The GFA Math Pilot program is intended to (a) introduce personalized learning into ASU Preparatory Academy classrooms and (b) investigate how effective GFA can be in helping students achieve college readiness in math and earn college credit. The GFA Math Pilot is structured to allow partners, teachers, and students to innovate, learn, and adjust, and to do so together. Using an adaptive approach, learning is tailored around each student's strengths, needs, and interests to provide flexibility and support to ensure mastery of a topic--in this case College Algebra--before moving on to the next.

To date, 24 ASU Prep Poly High School students are enrolled in GFA College Algebra. Fourteen of these students are eligible to apply for university credit, and it is anticipated that another 6 will be eligible at the end of the school year. ASU Prep teachers have commented that the course is a valuable tool that reduces math anxiety, educates students on what is expected from them in an online or hybrid class, and helps students earn college credit.

Impact - How has this institution demonstrated change/influence of culture across the education landscape? (250 words maximum)

ASU's Global Freshman Academy is providing a truly transformative model for higher education to help students earn college credit on a global scale.

The Starbucks College Achievement Plan Pathway to Admission is a groundbreaking program that gives Starbucks partners (employees) who do not yet meet the admission requirements of the Starbucks College Achievement Plan a pathway into college, tuition free. Since the program's launch six months ago, over 500 partners have enrolled in the Pathway to Admission program, and many more have expressed interest. 166 Starbucks partners are currently enrolled in GFA College Algebra.

It is estimated that there are 65.1 million displaced people globally, and less than 1% of these refugees have access to postsecondary education. Kepler Kiziba refugee students receive a combination of in-person learning, online content, and workplace training. Currently, 23 Kiziba refugees are enrolled in GFA College Algebra as part of The BOLD Project. While only a few weeks in, the initial snapshot is impressive with all students having ID Verified in the course (meaning they are eligible for academic credit) and all students working steadily to complete topics, learn skills, and master concepts. Periodic reviews will assess the project's progress and potential to expand the course to other refugee locations within Africa and/or add a second GFA course in Kiziba. The results of the pilot program combined with GFA's unique design will enable ASU and Kepler to ultimately reach a much larger audience, expanding access to education well beyond the 1% and creating opportunity where almost none existed before.

NMC Horizon Connection - How does the work/effort(s) of the nominated institution clearly link to a trend, challenge, or developing technology in the most recent NMC Horizon Report -- OR -- probable leading edge issue/technology for a future NMC Horizon Report? (250 words maximum)

Deeper Learning Approaches: GFA College Algebra utilizes the adaptive software ALEKS to help students learn each of the skills in our course at their own pace. Students complete an Initial Knowledge Check, which allows ALEKS to assess the skills students already know well, the skills they may need to review, and the skills they are learning for the first time. Once students complete the Initial Knowledge Check, ALEKS places them on their individualized learning path so they can begin learning skills and mastering concepts. ALEKS continues to adapt to students as they work through the course.

For every problem a student is given, there's an explanation page that goes along with it as well as helpful topic videos and textbook content. Students have access to a team of ASU Math Coaches, who are available to provide 1:1 tutoring via email, course messaging, or Google Hangouts.

The course's Newsfeed delivers data-driven content chosen and delivered to students based on their activity and needs within the course. For example, a student who has not

yet set their Final Exam goal will receive an encouraging video message from one of our Math Coaches instructing them on how to set their goal. Students can easily track their progress in the course's "Progress and Goals" box, which displays the number of skills they've earned as they continue through the course as well as how many skills they're completing per week and if they're on pace to meet their Final Exam goal.

Supporting URL 1: Share a link to a resource that showcases your institution's work.

- <http://gfa.asu.edu>

Supporting URL 2: Share an additional link to a resource that showcases your institution's work.

- EdSurge Article: How to Set Up Students to Succeed in Online Learning by Adrian Sannier:

<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2016-05-27-how-to-set-up-students-to-succeed-in-online-learning>

Supporting URL 3: Share an additional link to a resource that showcases your institution's work.

- Five star course reviews:

<https://www.edx.org/course/college-algebra-problem-solving-asux-mat117x#ct-read-review-widget>