



# Foundations

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## Overview

EAST is the result of a dynamic collaboration between government, business, and education. EAST is dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to develop competencies consistent with the realities of the Twenty-first Century. It is supported by a diverse group of entities who foster relationships which provide awareness and access to necessary and relevant resources. This access is accomplished through a dynamic operational model of symbiotic alliances among education, business, and government.

These alliances focus on creating student-centered K-16 learning environments that emphasize project-based service learning using relevant technology. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to provide students with the opportunities and the tools that can help them to develop into productive, contributing citizens. The underlying philosophy of these relationships and the outward manifestation of this practice is the educational model that is EAST.

## Vision Statement

**EAST envisions a world where communities are strengthened through service and technology.**

The idea of community is a central concept in EAST and in a sense much broader than simple geography. Communities form around shared interests, and in that way EAST makes communities out of single classrooms, whole schools, entire districts, towns and cities, and even international partners working together for mutual benefit. EAST is a community, itself. Our vision as an organization is to see those communities prosper. While we recognize that such a goal requires hard work and dedication, we also believe the tools of technology – and the knowledge to use them effectively – are vital to that effort. East brings together project “clients,” students, facilitators, trainers, staff, donors, and supporters. Working together, we believe these participants in EAST are part of a continuum that strengthens our communities and fosters innovative, entrepreneurial learners. These learners actively work to make sure that they are prepared for the challenges in front of them as they continue to grow.



## **Mission Statement**

**The EAST mission is to provide all learners with the opportunity to have relevant, individualized, life-changing educational experiences.**

EAST is opportunity. Whether serving students, educators or the general public, our mission remains the same. We believe that all learners, when presented with the right tools, can achieve. The nature of those tools and subsequent achievement, however, is unique to each individual. Each problem is different, and solutions are no less so. But the opportunity of EAST remains the same: empowerment. By offering training, support, grants, and development to students and educators, the EAST Initiative serves as both provider of and advocate for innovative education. The result is trained professionals who are better prepared to facilitate learning in students who, themselves, prove to be invaluable assets to their schools and communities – and, one day, to future employers or, in many cases, to future employees.

## **Creed**

We Believe:

- Students should, can, and will take responsibility for their own learning when given the opportunity.
- Students should be actively engaged in solving problems in their communities.
- Students should be given access to relevant and challenging resources and tools to use in solving these identified problems.
- Students should be allowed (indeed required) to collaborate with each other and with professionals in their communities as they grow and develop their capacity to be positive agents of change.

## **Four Principles of the EAST Model**

- Service-Based Learning: Students identify and work to solve problems within their community, at the school, local, state or national level
- Technology-Driven: Students use industry-grade, sophisticated tools, and software to solve the problems that they identify in their communities, going above and beyond traditional “community service.”
- Student-Led: Students design projects to work on based on their interests and talents.
- Collaborative Learning: Students work with their peers and community members to collaboratively address problems.