

Arizona State University *Institutional Initiatives*

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In fall 2011 Arizona State University (ASU) launched 10,000 Solutions, an online problem solving platform that leverages the power of collaborative imagination. 10,000 Solutions aims to redefine the role a university takes in society to not only educate students and support innovation, but also to empower individuals and groups to discuss and implement change on a greater scale.

By sharing their actionable ideas in 60 seconds or less through video uploads or text descriptions, entrants have the opportunity to gain feedback and support to move their solutions forward. Users can comment on other users' solutions to offer suggestions and to meet like-minded individuals and form networks. Similarly, groups can "tag" their idea using descriptive terms or the name of a group with whom they affiliate to further designate and gather their ideas.

10,000 Solutions was influenced by other successful solutions-oriented efforts such as Challenge.gov, a no-cost government challenge platform utilized by federal agencies and Change by United States New York City, a website for New Yorkers looking to join or create projects in their neighborhoods. The platform is a helpful applied learning tool in courses with a community-based learning component. ASU instructors from a variety of courses (e.g., introductory level classes taken by all freshmen, an engineering class that focuses on social entrepreneurship, and a public affairs course) incorporate the project into their classrooms to allow experimentation with the innovation process. In Barrett, The Honors College, a new Communities Solutions course connects students to community organizations whose clientele will share their ideas using the 10,000 Solutions platform. Anyone over the age of 13 can post a solution.

Student organizations also use the platform to increase their impact. For instance, ASU4Food, a student group that works to end hunger in Arizona, received suggestions for ways to generate increased sponsorship from a 10,000 Solutions user. The group implemented the suggestions quickly with much success.

10,000 Solutions is a signature program of Changemaker Central, a space for all of ASU's social innovators, with locations on all four of ASU's campuses. ASU's signature programs support

students in their journey to become changemakers by creating communities of support around new ideas and increasing access to early stage seed funding.

Community partners, including Teach for America and Valley of the Sun United Way, leverage 10,000 Solutions to showcase new programs or inspire student involvement with their organizations. Each month, a community partner poses a challenge question to solicit ideas from 10,000 Solutions users. The platform provides a highly accessible bridge between our community partners and the university community.

A team of ASU faculty members received a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the evolution of the platform and its community. Faculty team members hold appointments in several different academic units—including the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, the School of Public Affairs, the School of Computing and Informatics, the School of Sustainability, and the School of Arts, Media and Engineering—demonstrating the breadth and depth of the 10,000 Solutions project. What's your solution? Join us by visiting <http://solutions.asu.edu/>.

For more information, contact

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