



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

▶ Shared Commitments and Beliefs

To all stakeholders:

We assume best intentions.

We commit to value-added experiences.

To our students:

We possess a growth mindset with all students.

We untap students' potential, igniting the amazing things they can do.

We empower students while unleashing their passions.

We encourage students to work through the struggles of learning.

We ensure experiences reflective of what students are ultimately going to experience in their careers, including 21st century employability skills.

We ensure each student feels a sense of belonging in Orbis, with an authentic relationship with at least one adult.

We provide the best possible experience for our students. Students are our first customers. (Our ROI is learning for students.)

To our project providers:

We look out for our project providers' best interests. We work diligently to build, strengthen, and sustain partnerships with project providers. (ROI is successful project completion.)

To our Orbis teammates:

We work interdependently as a team, maximizing each other's strengths.

We embrace mistakes and learn from them. We accept mistakes collectively, work through them together, learn from them, and take action for improvement.

We are purposeful and strategic in the language we use and how we communicate with stakeholders (both internal and external).

We support each other in sharpening the saw (Orbis/life integration).



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dr. Jill Urich

Director

Chad Brooks

Program Mentor

Joel Fox

Program Mentor

Stephanie Vittetoe

Assistant

Our Mission

The mission of Orbis is to engage all students with authentic learning experiences that prepare them for a lifetime of personal success beyond high school, regardless of pathway after high school graduation. In partnership with the workforce, educational institutions, and our local and global community, students will apply and strengthen essential skills of critical thinking, complex communication, creativity, collaboration, flexibility/adaptability, and productivity/accountability.

GREATNESS[®]
STEMS
FROM IOWANS

GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

dedicated to building a strong STEM education foundation for all Iowans





► From the Director

Welcome to Orbis, where students unleash their passion, realize their potential, and impact the world. COVID-19 did not stop us from teaming up with Project Providers and Workforce Experts to equip the next generation of creative problem-solvers. Like any other year, Student Innovators:

- Co-designed their learning, engaging in personalized experiences unique to their passions, interests, and skills
- Engaged in authentic project work with the workforce
- Collaborated with the workforce and peers from multiple high schools.
- Were empowered as young professionals.

In the midst of a pandemic, we remained grounded in our Orbis guarantee: Bridging classroom learning with the community and workforce. Our connections with alumni highlighted the unique, relevant impact their Orbis experiences have had on their lives after high school, no matter their college or career field of choice. Specifically, they reported having strengthened skills in leadership, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration, all of which apply to every career field. Put simply, the mystery of life outside of the bricks and mortar of a school setting is unveiled in Orbis. Students are more confident in advocating for themselves, have applied business practices in innovation and problem-solving, and are passionate about serving others and making a difference.

Our partners are a key driver to the success of Orbis. Whether you are a high school student, a business, a nonprofit organization, a post-secondary educational institution, a workforce expert, a community member, or someone with an interest in being an active part of our energizing Orbis experience, there is a place for you. Join us, and let's be curious together and make a difference!

Program Summary ►

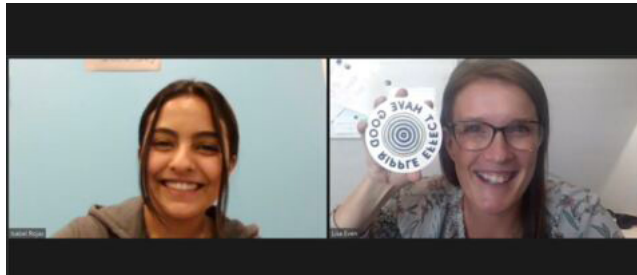
Orbis Project-Based Experiences (PBE) engages teams of students from several area high schools, in partnership with the workforce, in the solving of real problems and in improving our local and global community. Experiences are grounded in leadership, problem-solving, and communication skills. Authentic problems lead to project ideas, and students' passions will be matched to projects. Because students' passions direct their project work and learning, no two students have the same Orbis experience. All students have common experiences, and yet each student has an individualized experience in which they have an active voice in designing. Orbis students report they experience significant growth in empathy, confidence, leadership skills, professional communication skills, creative problem-solving abilities, and collaboration skills all while making a difference in the community and gaining valuable authentic experiences.



New This Year

Lead Innovator **Boot camp** ►

Orbis innovators (students) who have already completed at least one semester of Orbis Project-Based Experience (PBE) have the opportunity to engage in additional professional development opportunities to help them continue to develop their leadership skills so that they can impact and inspire those they interact with both now and in the future. This micro-course is taken as an additional component of the Orbis PBE course and student learning is in addition to continuing work on their community impact projects in the regular Orbis PBE course. In fact, those projects are where participants in this micro-course apply their new learning and refine their skills. Innovators will engage in trainings, coaching sessions with professionals in the community, and be a contributing member of a book club centered around leadership development.



► Project Spotlight

POVx2 ("Power of Voice, Point of View")

Project Provider: Outbound Project (Innovator identified community need)

How might we elevate the importance of student voice in the ACSD's decision-making process and empower young people to be agents of change?

Project Summary:

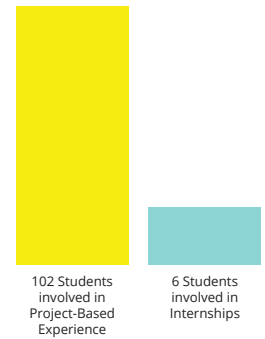
A team of innovators gathered student input on the hybrid model and its impact on the student experience through interviews and a survey, and then presented a summary of their findings at an ACSD school board meeting. They were unbiased in their delivery of this information as they didn't argue for a particular decision but instead sought to share the opinions of those most affected by decisions of the school board. The team worked with the school board and district leadership to have student representation on the school board, so that student voice continues to be heard and valued.



Orbis by the Numbers

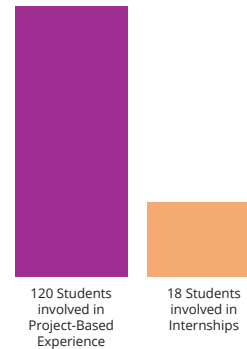
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Number of Students Enrolled,
Fall Semester 2020



2

Number of Students Enrolled,
Spring Semester 2021



3

Number of Projects



4

Mock Interviews conducted



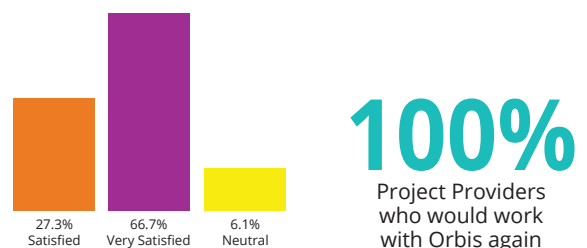
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Number of Lead Innovator badges
awarded



6

Project Providers' satisfaction level
with the collaborative efforts of
Orbis Innovators

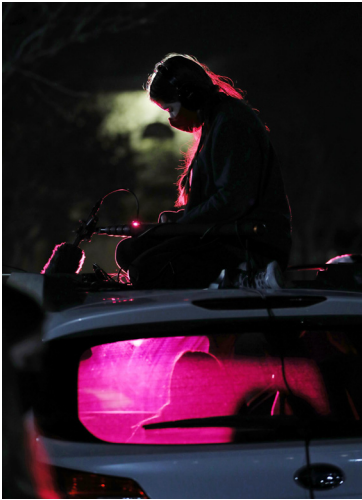


Orbis Alumni

Where Are They **Now?**

"Orbis gave me the ability to network
in my field and gave me confidence
to put myself out there."

- Grace M.



Grace Maddox (class of 2020) • Southern Methodist University • Film Department



Alumni returned in the spring to talk to current innovators about their post-secondary experience.



Ellie Wilson • Luther College,
participating in raptor research.



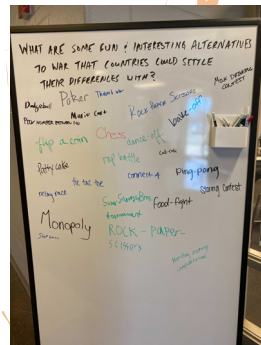
Ally Wichman • Arizona
State University, using
her project management
skills developed in Orbis.



Scan this to hear
more on how Orbis is
impacting our alumni



Orbis Culture



► Project Spotlight

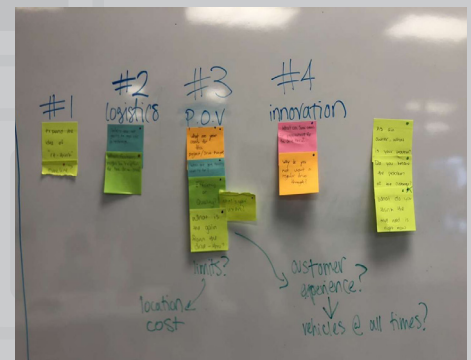
D.R.I.V.E. T.H.R.O.U.G.H. 2.0

Project Provider: Blue Bean

How might we rethink and redesign the drive-thru experience to create an outstanding customer experience?

Project Goals:

- Provide the benefits of a drive-thru without a drive-thru lane
- Minimize or eliminate the negative aspects of a drive-thru experience
- Engage customers in an enjoyable interaction with Blue Bean
- Encourage more people to engage with Blue Bean



Senior Issues

Project Provider: Ankeny Schools Administration & Prom Committee

How might we make prom night a safe and memorable experience for students despite the obstacles of this year?

Project Summary:

This team generated a variety of memorable activities that could occur at a COVID-safe prom experience and worked with the administration and prom committees at both high schools to further discussions about prom this year. Their ideas, planning, and conversations with various stakeholders stirred up further conversations which led to safe ways to host both a prom and after-prom event.

911

Project Provider: Ankeny Police Department

How can we continue fostering a positive relationship between the APD and the community?

How can we improve the relationships between the School Resource Officers (SRO) and students?

Project Goals:

- Foster a relationship between the police department and community
- Improve relationship between the SROs and students
- Make the APD and SROs an example to other departments

Provider Feedback:

Thank you and your students for the work they did on their Orbis project involving Law Enforcement & Community Relations. The team brought some good ideas to the table resulting in good discussion and some possible solutions to troubles our SROs are working through.

Special Events

During the year Innovators have many opportunities to participate in unique events as a part of Orbis.

200 total mock interviews conducted with local professionals at the end of the first semester



Bizlab conducted three design thinking and innovation sessions



Innovators presented to Rob Denson and DMACC staff as a part of their onboarding project.



Orbis teams presented a yearly update and projects on behalf of Orbis

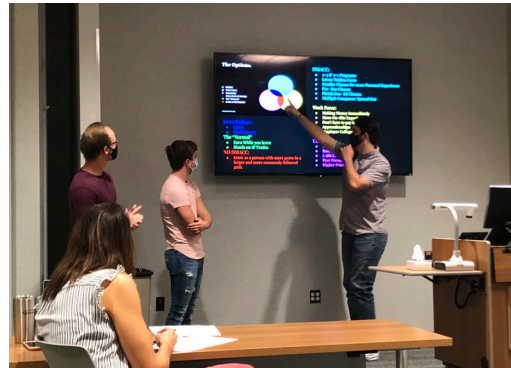


Out and About

During the year, Innovators had many opportunities to interact and meet with project providers, workforce experts, and many community organizations.



Touring the Ankeny High School addition while learning about skilled trades.



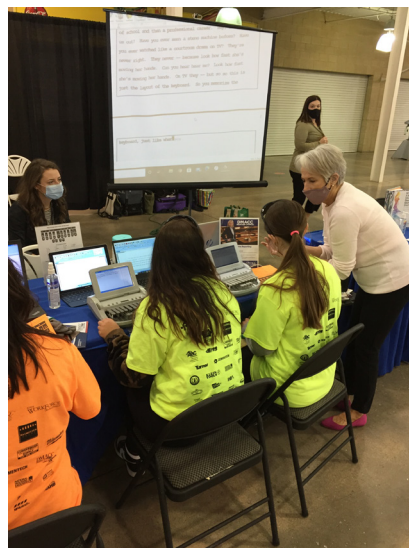
Innovators deliver their final presentation to DMACC staff



Meeting with One Source Solar learning more about renewable energy.



Project discovery meeting with AR Workshop in The District.



Innovators participated in Build My Future at the state fairgrounds.

Featured Partner ►



Innovators engaged in three days of design and innovation training over the course of the semester with Carlos Rojas and Jeff Reed of Bizlab. Design Thinking is a human-centered approach to tackling complex problems through empathy, prototyping, and constant feedback from the end user. Carlos and Jeff participated as project providers, mentors, and collaborators to innovators and provided on-going professional development to Orbis staff.



Mock Interviews ►

Adam Busch	Ankeny Schools
Andy Jennings	Mercy One
Anthony Borich	Mercy One
Ashley Sorenson	Kreg Tool
Austin Roy	Ankeny Schools
Bethany Baratta	Iowa Soybean Assoc.
Brett Burkhardt	MakuSafe
Chris Cournoyer	Iowa Senator
Dave Brown	Baker Group
Heather Matson	Stakeholder
Jackie Rolow	Shazam
Jake Kerber	Kerber Tech
Jared Baldwin	Faith Baptist College
Jeff Reed	Biz Lab
Jessie Dirks	Ankeny Schools
Josie Lewis	CASB
Kevin Lewis	Stakeholder
Katie James	Iowa Soybean Assoc.
Kylie Ayala	Kline Electric
Kylie Streigle	Mercy One
Lisa Even	Even Connection
Susan Schrader	Mercy One
Kylie Wroge	Casey's

School Board ►

Aaron Johnson, President
Amy Tagliareni, Vice President
Deshara Bohanna
Katie Claey's
Jim Ford
Lori Lovstad
Ryan Weldon

Internships

Thank you to our 20-21 internship providers



Harrison & Dietz-Kilen PLC





www.ankenyschools.org/orbis • 515.963.7455 • 1102 N Ankeny Blvd. Ankeny IA, 50023



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Twitter: @ACSDOrbis

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/AnkenyOrbis

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