



# TakingITGlobal

INSPIRE INFORM INVOLVE



### **The Vision**

Youth everywhere are actively inspired, informed, and involved in shaping our world.

### **Our Mission**

We provide opportunities for learning, capacity-building, cross-cultural awareness, and self-development through the use of Information and Communication Technologies.

### **Our Purpose**

Facilitating & enabling youth-led change

### **What We Offer:**

- Global online social network and hub for civic participation ([www.tigweb.org](http://www.tigweb.org))
- Content & tools for educators to facilitate rich, interactive learning experiences ([www.tiged.org](http://www.tiged.org))
- Outreach & Collaboration tools for events, networks, campaigns, and causes
- Research, development, and sharing of best practices on youth engagement
- Facilitated learning experiences through workshops, webinars, and e-courses

### **Why Bother?**

- Global awareness and understanding across cultures is key to the future of the planet
- Student dropout and disengagement rates are at all-time highs, and costing billions in lost economic opportunities and crime
- Preventable diseases and health issues are on the rise globally, with young people often the most vulnerable and affected

### **So Far...**

- 4.5 million young people reached in 2008, over 10 million since launch in 2000
- Engagement across 12 languages, and in every country and territory in the world
- Thought leadership through presenting at over 500 education, technology, development, business, and youth conferences and events
- Partnerships across sectors with over 8 U.N. agencies, dozens of international civil society organizations, several top-tier technology companies (Google, Microsoft, Adobe, Cisco, HP), and leading-edge foundations across North America.
- Global recognition from the World Economic Forum and Tech Museum of Innovation

**Founded:** September 2000

**Status:** Federally registered charity

**Co-founders:** Jennifer Corriero & Michael Furdyk

**Languages:** English, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Russian, Romanian, Swedish, Turkish, Arabic, Simplified Chinese



**Jennifer Corriero**  
**Co-Founder & Executive Director**

Jennifer Corriero is an innovator and leader, bringing tremendous insight into understanding, reaching and motivating youth. Jennifer's experience includes developing and driving youth programs related to technology, collaboration and entrepreneurship, and has designed and delivered an extensive range of interactive learning experiences with the aim of empowering youth as community leaders

She is the co-founder and Executive Director of TakingITGlobal, a non-profit charitable organization based in Toronto, Ontario that strengthens the capacity of youth leaders, while fostering cross-cultural dialogue and global awareness through the use of technology. With an annual budget of around \$1.5 million, the organization has 25 staff members and nearly 100 virtual volunteers, along with 8 Board Members and a network of over 30 advisors who help guide TakingITGlobal's direction. Over 220,000 young people are registered as members from over 200 countries, while the site has reached out to over 10 million people since its launch in 2000.

In 2007, Jennifer received York University's Bryden Alumni Award in the One to Watch category and was recognized by the Women's Executive Network as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100™ Award Winners. She has been selected by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader (2005) and Global Leader for Tomorrow (2002). Jennifer also had the honour of being a member of the Official Canadian Delegation on State Visit to Brazil with Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada in July 2007.

She has presented and supported civil society engagement at events including the World Urban Forum, International AIDS Conference, World Summit on Sustainable Development, Youth Employment Summit, World Youth Congress and Global Knowledge Partnership International Forum. Jennifer has been a youth engagement strategy consultant for a range of organizations including Microsoft, TD Bank, VanCity Credit Union, Ontario Science Centre and the Canadian Government.

Jennifer has been featured in articles in The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail, The New York Times, Fast Company and TIME Magazine; was named as one of the "Shapers of Our Future" in the area of technology and education by Converge Magazine; was named one of the Top Newsmakers of 2006 in IT Business Magazine; was the 2001 Wired Woman Young Woman of the Year; has been recognized by the National Congress of Italian Canadians as a Youth Achievement Award winner; and was an award winner for McGill University's Management Achievement Award.

She has a BA (Liberal Studies) with a focus on 'Business, Communications, Technology and Culture' and a Masters in Environmental Studies from York University, with a concentration on Youth Engagement and Capacity Building Across Cultures. Her thesis project focused on leveraging the insights and experiences of youth leaders from around the world, which helped with TakingITGlobal's redefining of its Guide to Action framework, designed to provide young leaders with the tools to have a positive impact in their community. Jennifer has also directed or partnered with numerous research related to youth and online civic engagement, including Our Space (MIT Press), Local Voices, Global Vision (WSIS) and Youth Media DNA (D-CODE).



**Michael Furdyk**  
**Co-Founder & Director of Technology**

Michael Furdyk is the Co-founder and Director of Technology for TakingITGlobal.org, a global online community for young people, engaging hundreds of thousands of youth in over 200 countries and territories. Along with managing the technology team at TakingITGlobal, Michael is involved with the TIGed education program, and has spoken to over 50,000 educators about the importance of engaging students and integrating technology and global perspectives into the classroom.

In the past, he has turned his interest in technology into a series of successful online companies, co-founding MyDesktop.com (later sold to Internet.com) and BuyBuddy.com (which raised \$4.5-million of venture capital). Over the last few years, Michael has consulted for many Fortune 500 companies, including a 6-month engagement developing youth strategy with Microsoft in Seattle, Washington.

As one of Teen People's "20 teens that will change the world", Michael has shared his opinions about Youth Engagement and experiences as a member of the Net Generation by speaking at dozens of events, including the World Congress on IT, the US Government's National Youth Summit, Microsoft's Anytime, Anywhere Learning Summits, The Business Council, and TED. He has made numerous media appearances including The Oprah Winfrey Show, Time Magazine, Fast Company, BusinessWeek, CNN, MSNBC, and USA Today. He is a board member and advisor to numerous groups including Microsoft, Pollution Probe, the Anytime, Anywhere Learning Foundation, and several other national and global organizations.



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### **Member Testimonials**

#### **A huge sea of people to support and motivate you**

"It gives me so much hope and inspiration just to know that a network like TakingITGlobal exists. When you're striving so hard to make a difference within your community, sometimes you can get tired or discouraged. But in a place like TIG, where thousands and thousands of youth making change in all corners of the world can connect with each other, you see that you're not alone."

Laura Muller, 22, Mexico

#### **Learn about other places right from your armchair.**

"TIG helped me to broaden my mental horizons to a great extent: living in Siberia does not mean living in isolation, and learning does not mean cramming for exams. We can become a part of the world by getting involved and using our knowledge and abilities to contribute to solving global problems. Information means empowerment!"

Olga Pavlova, 22, Russia

#### **If one just keeps trying things will work out.**

"There are Iraqi youth who are really passionate about certain issues, but they haven't been taking action because they don't know how. What Iraqi youth need is to be exposed to youth-led projects and examples of stories where youth made a change and took action, and this is where TakingITGlobal can have the most impact in our country."

Mohamed Jaafar Saeed, 24, Iraq

#### **Development is not only possible, it's happening as we speak.**

"I want to contradict the cynicism portrayed in mainstream media in Europe and North America: that everything is hopeless. Real development is happening worldwide, and I want to give a voice to the people who are making it a reality."

Jonas Eriksson, 26, Sweden

#### **What amazes me is we really do live in a global village**

"The spirit of establishing a harmonious society is one of TIG's strengths. TIG inspires youth to leave prejudice and misunderstanding behind, and to stand up and to think and work together. It has helped me to realize that youth can be effective agents of change."

Youxin Kong, 18, China

#### **A world of people who are passionate**

There are two things that keep me on track: God and TIG. I know that if I run out of energy, there are at least 100 people around me on TIG who can say, "Please keep doing what you're doing." Hearing people's stories just motivates and refuels me with passion all over again.

Fiona McKenzie, 23, New Zealand

#### **"Come on guys, let's do this!"**

Through TIG, I've also learned a lot of things that have shaped my being and my attitude. If you tell other people that they have to act positively, you have to act positively yourself, and TIG has helped me to realize the importance and the meaning of being a young leader.

Joel Kalpram, 25, Vanuatu

#### **Empower and educate those around you.**

My brother once told me: "If you want a better future, if you want to see a better world, you have to be a part of the process, as nothing will happen by itself." Having spent the majority of my life as a refugee, I dream of a world without poverty and war. I felt that I should and could make my contribution to creating change.

Thomas Juló Barlue, 22, Liberia



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