THE STUDENT COALITION FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

Held at the 2019 Winter Innovation Summit
BOLD QUESTION:

How can diverse, engaged students across the nation drive change in the social impact space?
BRING THE TOP STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSITY-BASED SOCIAL IMPACT CENTERS TOGETHER TO MEET, COLLABORATE, AND TACKLE CRITICAL ISSUES.
The Summit is primed to host a transformative, intercollegiate student experience:

+ Students networked with over 900 elected officials, impact investors, policymakers, private foundations, family offices, nonprofits, data scientists, social entrepreneurs, and academics

+ World-class mainstage speakers and panels, and 31 deep dive sessions—over 200 hours expert-led content

+ 30+ industry leaders were available for hands-on mentorship, plus endless “mentorship moments.”

For Summit details and full schedule, including topics, click here...
STUDENT OUTCOMES

BOTTOM LINE: STUDENT-CENTRIC

1. DEVELOPED MEANINGFUL MENTORSHIPS
   Used Mentorship Moments within the Winter Innovation Summit to connect with social impact innovators and secure mentors for future opportunities.

2. ENGAGED IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
   Applied knowledge gained throughout the Summit in order to tackle a real-world issue. Built teamwork, problem solving, and communication skills.

3. CREATED A NATIONAL NETWORK
   Collaborated and developed professional connections with the rising generation of social impact leaders. Created a network of driven and innovative peers from across the country.

Led by students, for students.
CONNECTED WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES
Connected with administrators and faculty from other university-based social impact centers/institutes to learn applicable best practices and programming.

SAMPLED CUTTING-EDGE CONTENT
Participated in discussions and workshops sharing new research and on-the-ground insights in impact investing, data science for social impact and a variety of other fields.

NETWORKED IN A SOCIAL IMPACT SPACE
Collaborated with private actors including entrepreneurs, impact investors, researchers and their organizations to develop a global network of social impact leaders.
A diverse group of students championing social impact united during the Winter Innovation Summit to tackle pressing social problems and to generate solutions.

WHAT

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WHO

Two students from ten top-tier university social impact institutes were nominated by their respective centers to join forces for the Coalition during the Winter Innovation Summit.

HOW

During the intensive four-day event, the Student Delegates had the singular opportunity to engage with leading innovators, forge partnerships with like-minded peers, participate in an Impact Hack and publish their solutions in the official Winter Innovation Summit Report.
STUDENT COALITION TIMELINE

November

The University of Utah’s Office of the President and Sorenson Impact Center invited partner university social impact centers to participate

November 28: University centers confirmed their participation in the Coalition and select two student participants

December

December 10: Deadline to submit names of student participants

December 15-31: Coalition Student Co-Chairs (Sorenson Fellows) communicated with students to arrange travel logistics and Summit preparation.

January

January 1-15: Students prepared for the Summit by submitting a write-up exploring the issue, current research and potential solutions

January 15: Deadline for students to submit background write-up

2019 Winter Innovation Summit | Student Coalition

Tuesday, February 5

6:00–8:00 pm: Welcome Reception for students and university leaders

Wednesday, February 6

8:00–9:00 am: Coalition breakfast
9:00–12:00 pm: Summit main stage content
12:00–1:30 pm: Coalition lunch and networking
1:30–5:00 pm: Summit deep dive breakout sessions
6:00–9:00 pm: Red Carpet Impact Film Premiere and Reception

Thursday, February 7

8:00–9:00 am: Coalition breakfast
9:00–12:00 pm: Summit main stage content
12:00–1:30 pm: Coalition lunch and networking
1:30–5:00 pm: Summit deep dive breakout sessions
6:00–7:00 pm: Art After Dark Soiree
7:00–12:00 am: STUDENT IMPACT HACK

Friday, February 8

9:00 am: Snow Day at Solitude Mountain Resort
College affordability is one of the most pressing issues for students and universities alike. Between 2008 and 2017, state funding for public colleges fell by $9 billion, leaving schools with no choice but to raise tuition and shift costs to individuals and families. Tuition strains education accessibility, limits diversity in schools, and decreases the number of high-skill workers joining the workforce. Students who take loans average $39,400 in debt by the time they graduate. Currently, the outstanding student loan debt is approaching $1.5 trillion and will only continue to grow unless significant changes are made.
STUDENT COALITION TEAM

Kirsten Anderl  
Policy Innovation Fellow, Sorenson Impact  
Senior, Brigham Young University  
Coalition Co-Chair

Estefanie Aguilar Padilla  
Policy Innovation Fellow, Sorenson Impact  
Senior, University of Utah  
Coalition Co-Chair

Paige Remington  
Policy Innovation Fellow, Sorenson Impact  
Junior, University of Utah  
Coalition Co-Chair

Courtney H. McBeth, Ed.D  
Special Assistant to the President;  
Project Director, American Dream Ideas Challenge

Cassie Slattery  
Project Facilitator  
American Dream Ideas Challenge  
Student Coalition Facilitator

Missie Frandsen  
Manager  
Field Building, Sorenson Impact  
Summit Chief of Staff
2019 STUDENT COALITION FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

- 50 HOURS OF EXCLUSIVE CONTENT
- 10 UNIVERSITIES
- 15-HOUR IMPACT HACK
- 13 UNIVERSITY LEADERS
- 21 STUDENTS
- 1 EXCLUSIVE FILM PREMIERE
- 18 INCHES OF SNOW
- 70 PAGES OF STUDENT RESEARCH
On Tuesday night, 21 students from around the country arrived in Salt Lake to engage in the first-ever Student Coalition for Social Impact.

In spite of a blizzard that shut down Salt Lake City and the university campus, Student Delegates were eager to meet each other, share their stories, and have fun!

The Coalition kicked off with a welcome dinner where the Student Delegates and university leaders heard from three esteemed guest speakers: University of Utah President Ruth V. Watkins, Special Assistant to the President Dr. Courtney H. McBeth, and Fraser Nelson, Managing Director of Sorenson Impact.

They discussed social impact, college affordability, and taking advantage of networking opportunities.
After waking up to a foot of snow blanketing the University of Utah campus, the Student Delegates were inspired by keynote speaker, Mayor Michael Tubbs call for action and inclusivity in the impact investing sector—“Nothing about us, without us, can be for us.”

They listened to panels about exciting advancements in Opportunity Zones, SIPPRA, artificial intelligence, and race equity in social impact.

Following a quick networking lunch, the Student Delegates participated in multiple deep dive sessions covering topics including Pay for Success in the real world, data and health innovation, and healthcare-funded housing investments.

As an exciting afternoon surprise, the Coalition had the privilege to engage in an exclusive Q&A session with Mayor Michael Tubbs, a highlight for many students.

Next, the Coalition attended a deep dive concerning income share agreements and other innovative efforts to fund higher education.

Wednesday night concluded with a networking reception and exclusive red carpet film premiere of Biggest Little Farm at the Leonardo Museum of Creativity and Innovation in downtown Salt Lake.
Thursday morning began with a group breakfast as delegates learned more about each other’s dreams and passions before heading to the mainstage. The Coalition was introduced on the main stage by Dr. Courtney H. McBeth, followed by a welcome from University of Utah President Ruth Watkins.

The students listened to a fireside chat between Bloomberg reporter Jordyn Holman and the Ford Foundation’s Director of Mission Investments Roy Swan, who said “every one of us is an agent of change.” Other memorable mainstage moments came from speakers discussing institutional integrity, building entrepreneurial ecosystems in rural communities, investing in infants and toddlers, and the role of faith in social impact.

After lunch, the Coalition explored the potential futures of the geography for postsecondary learning with the Gates Foundation. Delegates then split up to attend a number of other deep dives, covering topics such as disruptive philanthropy, aligning mission and investment strategies.

In the evening, the Coalition attended the Art After Dark Soiree with Summit Student Artist in Residence Steph Shotorbani. At 6:30pm, Summiteers cheered on the delegates as they headed out the five-hour Impact Hack.
THE IMPACT HACK

Brainstormed and categorized the challenges surrounding the issue of college affordability.

Teams pitched why each category of challenges was the most pressing, and then voted to focus on the challenge of institutional inefficiency.

A similar method was used to ideate and focus on a third-party solution, rather than solutions generated by universities.

“The impact hack was really inspiring. It’s one thing to learn about Social Entrepreneurship in the classroom, but it’s really empowering to see it in action. Not only was the content spectacular but the people were so passionate and driven.”
Delegates shared personal stories and relevant research, then debated to narrow down a solution. Teams consulted visiting experts, including leaders from the University of Utah, Sorenson staff and the local community.

10:00 PM
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11:00 PM
Delegates shared personal stories and relevant research, then debated to narrow down a solution.

12:00 AM
Delegates finalized their work and, as a team, presented a deck and a one-pager explaining their solution.

“I really enjoyed the Impact Hack because we worked collaboratively as a team. I feel like there are so many instances in higher education where students are pitted against each other; trying to get better grades, be in the most prestigious organizations, etc. But in this space, we were all working towards a common solution for the greatest good. It was a super uplifting experience.”
Ultimately, students felt that software combining college information in an easy-to-understand, accessible platform would make the process of finding and securing financial aid far more efficient, especially since it would be supplemented by an AI chat bot to help potential students receive quicker feedback.
FRIDAY: SNOW DAY

At 7am, the Student Coalition headed up the canyon with other Summiteers for a snow day at Solitude Mountain Resort.

Under crisp blue skies and on fresh powder, the students enjoyed networking and skiing all morning.

At noon, the Coalition made their way back to the Last Chance Lodge to present the college affordability solution they had designed the previous night. Summit attendees grabbed hot chocolate and gathered close to hear and ask questions about the Coalition's innovative college affordability software.

After four transformative days, the Coalition packed their bags and headed home to share their knowledge and insight with their social impact centers, universities and communities.
OUTCOMES:

Students loved getting to know one another and became more than just peers and colleagues as they built lifelong friendships during the Coalition.

Delegates shared blog posts on their respective universities’ websites about their participation both the Summit and Coalition. Delegates described Summit content and speakers as inspiring, insightful and unforgettable, and expressed how it solidified their desire to pursue careers in the social impact sector.

A LinkedIn group was created to remain connected as a Coalition and build their newfound community.

To culminate the entire Coalition experience, a Forbes Film was created to document the intensity and impact of SCSI. Delegates are excited to share the film as words are not enough to depict the entirety of their experience.

The Coalition is now an integral part of the Summit and will be hosted again next year. The eleven universities in attendance have continued the conversation around the importance of the Student Coalition and hope to use this opportunity as a platform to build a network of higher education social impact centers, as well as expand higher education content at the Summit.
“I loved the multitude of universities that attended. I am also grateful that Sorenson provided financial support as I probably couldn't have attended without the aid. I really liked the dynamic between students as well. Lastly, the student coordinators were absolutely wonderful. I loved the idea of ‘for students, led by students’.”

“It was an incredible event for a few reasons. One, the opportunity to meet so many intelligent people with such interesting and ground breaking ideas was very meaningful. Two, meeting students from other schools was very enjoyable and created great friendships.”
“Thank you so much for an amazing Summit! I have already recommended the Summit to my impact center and hope to see you all again in the coming years. I’m looking forward to the video documenting our experience!”

“I loved learning about the other students. It was inspiring and encouraging to speak with others who feel the same way about social impact as I do.”
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

The Student Coalition for Social Impact is thankful to our generous partners, The American Dream Ideas Challenge and The University of Utah Office of the President, who made this unique opportunity possible and empowered innovative student leaders from across the country to explore and propose attainable solution(s) for higher education problems.

The American Dream Ideas Challenge (ADIC) aims to find, fund, and develop innovative policies cultivated by Utah organizations and community members to increase the welfare of Utahns. The University of Utah is a member of the Alliance for the American Dream and leads the American Dream Ideas Challenge in the state of Utah. The American Dream Ideas Challenge funded 60% of the Coalition and provided key support for Program Fellows.

The Sorenson Impact Center empowers people across the globe to move from inspiration to impact. The Center believes that profound social impact is contingent on leveraging three cohesive strategies: data science, community engagement, and storytelling. The Center funded 40% of the Coalition and provided leadership, facilitation, and project management.

The University of Utah Office of the President is dedicated to providing exceptional educational experiences for all students, generate and share research and innovative solutions, and engage local, national, and global communities to promote education, health, and quality of life.

Also a huge thanks to our in-kind donors Honest Tea, and Angela’s Catering.