Agent Learner Initiative

Empowering learners as individuals

Together, universities must rise to the challenge of unleashing the potential of all learners

Realizing the promise of America's universities to drive social progress demands a major shift in the culture of education that prioritizes the agency of learners, regardless of their age, life circumstances or socioeconomic status.

This culture shift is necessary to meet America's unprecedented demand for access to quality education—and requires universities to work together to advance innovative technologies and organizational designs that enable high-quality, scalable and personalized learning.

With support from the Stand Together community, Charles Koch Foundation and a growing network of philanthropic donors, the Agent Learner Initiative is advancing an entrepreneurial, solutions-oriented model for higher education that prioritizes learners as individuals and allows them to successfully realize their self-defined potential.

The Agent Learner Initiative is building a new foundation for universities to work together to innovate, improve outcomes for learners, and deliver high-quality education at scale. The initiative works across four focus areas:

THE CATALYST

Digital Transformation Initiative

THE TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Orchard

THE ECOSYSTEM

Pocket and Trusted Learner Network

THE K-12 PIPELINE

ASU Prep Digital

We are partnering with colleges and universities, employers, K-12 schools and systems, and technology providers to collaboratively create a future of higher education that gives learners greater flexibility, autonomy and agency.

Contact us to learn more about how to support or partner with the Agent Learner Initiative.

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Digital Transformation Initiative

Technology-Enhanced Culture Change in Higher Education

Led by ASU's University Design Institute (UDI), the Digital Transformation Initiative supports universities in advancing learner-centric technological and organizational innovations. Drawing upon ASU's experience in managing rapid online growth and building learner-responsive instructional infrastructure, the Digital Transformation Initiative is responding to the challenges in higher education unleashed by COVID-19 and helping universities to leverage technology and culture change to catalyze institutional transformation.

Through the Digital Transformation Initiative, UDI assists education leaders in co-creating sustainable solutions that fuse entrepreneurial culture change with digital innovation. UDI engages partner institutions through an interactive design process that offers customized support to strengthen capacity to meet the needs of diverse learners.

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How can we think of turning the assets of an institution of higher education via technology to solving the needs of learners across the spectrum of their lives?

Minu Ipe

Managing Director, University Design Institute, ASU

Project Lead, Digital Transformation Initiative, Agent Learner Initiative

ASU Arizona State University

Orchard

Transforming Education Technology

ASU EdPlus is designing Orchard, a technical infrastructure that enables frictionless sharing of digital curriculum between educators and universities. Orchard will act as a marketplace for educators and students to share the assets and content that they create, which can be rapidly integrated and deployed into customized learning experiences.

Orchard will support personalized learning at scale by eliminating administrative and technical barriers to sharing and repurposing learning assets across institutions. The platform will allow educators to access and plan courses utilizing a varied array of materials built to enhance adaptiveness, customization and outcomes for learners.

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> What Orchard allows us to do is have all of those learning objects in a repository that can be easily mixed and matched and shuffled and placed onto a learning management system much more easily than exists now.

Phil Regier

University Dean for Education Initiatives and CEO of EdPlus at ASU

Project Lead, Orchard, Agent Learner Initiative

ASU Arizona State University

Pocket and Trusted Learner Network

Redesigning Academic Records to Empower Learners

ASU is designing Pocket as a first-of-its-kind, unified solution to the credit transfer challenges facing learners and education institutions. Pocket will give learners direct control over their records while enabling secure digital credentialing of all achievements—including courses, competencies, degrees and other accomplishments—and enable seamless transfer of records between learners, institutions and employers.

The Pocket platform will act as a reliable, blockchain-based system that holds validated learner records together across the Trusted Learner Network, a coalition of academic institutions and employers that provides jobs and academic opportunities for students. The network will establish computational trust across network participants, ensuring full security and accuracy while giving students the ability to share all or part of their records with external parties.

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Because we are fundamentally focused on the success of the learner, we are willing to take some of the initial, calculated risk to build the technology and network that helps them to take command of their own learning journey and show evidence of their successes and challenges they've overcome.

Lev Gonick

Chief Information Officer, ASU

Project Lead, Trusted Learner Network, Agent Learner Initiative

ASU Arizona State University

ASU Prep Digital

Overcoming Barriers to Access and Quality in K-12 Education

ASU Prep Digital is a scalable, digital K-12 education platform that enables fully personalized learning experiences. Drawing on ASU's vast technological and curricular assets, ASU Prep Digital is working to overcome the geographic and socioeconomic barriers facing K-12 learners nationwide and transcend the traditional boundaries between high school and college through seamless pathways to post-secondary education.

ASU Prep Digital is supporting the Agent Learner ecosystem by developing new adaptive courseware and innovative AI-enhanced tools for student success. These assets will allow ASU Prep Digital to reach hundreds of thousands of students nationally and globally, both directly and through partnerships with public and private K-12 schools.

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ASU Prep Digital's platform creates a permissionless school environment that allows us to bring the innovation of the university into the homes and schools where learners are.

Amy McGrath

Deputy Vice President for Education, Outreach and Student Services and Chief Operating Officer, ASU Prepatory Academy Schools

Project Lead, ASU Prep Digital, Agent Learner Initiative

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