

# GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR ENTREPRENEURS



The Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE) is an anchor in our entrepreneurial landscape, uniquely known for developing and enabling the entrepreneurs of Kentucky's tomorrow. GSE has become a spawning ground for innovators and primes the pipeline of future business leaders and creators in the state. Opening our doors to the first group of young entrepreneurs in 2013, we bring teens from across the state into a three-week residential program, immerse them in a creative space and arm them with the tools needed to unleash their entrepreneurial spirits for the betterment of Kentucky.

During the program, teams of high school students develop a business model, design a prototype and pitch their startup to a large audience and a panel of judges. GSE teaches the opportunities, benefits and pitfalls of taking a business concept from the idea phase to pitching it to potential investors.



## GROWTH

120 teens served over two summer sessions  
(Up from 72 teens and one session in previous years)



## INNOVATION

30 innovative, scalable  
business models

## 2021 GSE HIGHLIGHTS



## INCLUSIVITY

30% identify as  
students of color



## HIGHER EDUCATION

GSE participants qualify for \$5 million  
in scholarship opportunities each year.

### 2021 Alum Testimonials



**Jessica Madden**  
Letcher County Central High School  
Whitesburg, KY

"I learned what an entrepreneur is and what it means to be one. Sacrifice, failure, and pivot, for me, all have a new meaning. If you were to have asked me a year ago what the word "entrepreneur" meant, I would've had no idea! It's so crazy to believe that because I am now an embodiment of an entrepreneur. Being in such a positive and uplifting environment, I came out of my shell and made lifelong connections. GSE has shown me my potential, and now it's my turn to take what I have learned and make the best of it."



**Joleen Gima**  
Harry Doss High School  
Louisville, KY

"Once I became part of the GSE community, both my heart and mind opened up. Being at GSE made me a better leader, communicator, and friend. I felt myself and everyone around me growing everyday during the program and that alone is a gift in and of itself."

# IDEAS IN ACTION

GSE's framework inspires creativity, leadership and innovation by taking students out of their communities and immersing them in a multidimensional and non-traditional learning experience. Most of the GSE business teams develop ideas for mobile apps, software products or physical products for a number of different industries. GSE enables teens to unleash their innate entrepreneurial passion for problem solving, with tech based solutions focused on Kentucky's most promising industries at the heart of the experience.



**Cam Lasley**  
2017 GSE Alum  
Hodgenville, KY

"I launched my company in 2020 when COVID-19 hit our state the hardest because everyone needs access to reliable, high-speed broadband," he said. "With the massive increase in families working from home, the demand for bandwidth and access to the internet skyrocketed. Old DSL service just wasn't cutting it anymore, so we built our own Internet service provider company, Telecast Communications."

"GSE made starting a business more attainable, and provided insight on things I probably wouldn't have considered when starting my own business, Be Bold Print. The people I met inspired me to do better and be more involved in my local and global community."



**Divine Irakiza**  
2021 GSE Alum  
Bowling Green, KY

## Future and Current Entrepreneurs

We've served 600+ entrepreneurs since our inception. To date, GSE alums have launched 30+ businesses.

## Kentucky Talent

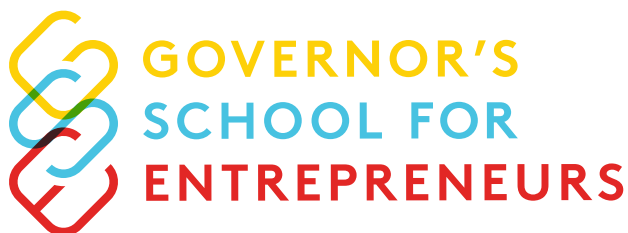
75% of GSE alums attended/are attending a postsecondary institution in Kentucky.

## STEM

70% of GSE alums pursuing STEM at the postsecondary level; GSE alums are well prepared to contribute to exciting new industries.

## Entrepreneurial Endeavors

1 in 2 GSE alums pursue entrepreneurship after GSE.



You can be part of Kentucky's growth story. With your support, we can foster and empower the brightest and best future business owners, catapulting positive economic advancement in communities across Kentucky. Reach out to GSE's executive director, Tasha Sams, today to see how you can get involved:

[tasha@kentuckygse.com](mailto:tasha@kentuckygse.com) or **606.389.0290**