

WISE Awards Announces Youth for Technology Foundation as a Finalist

MAY 4, 2016 – The Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF) is one of fifteen [WISE Award](#) finalists, an honor announced today to celebrate excellence in innovation to integrate technology in education.

The WISE Awards help build “a community of educational innovators which offers a fertile environment for groundbreaking collaborations.” WISE notes their awards network “comprises pioneering projects that are helping bring real change to societies and communities.”

Technology that Innovates Education

Emerging technologies bring new programs to YTF so that African youth can know about, understand, and participate in the global online marketplaces to maximize their education, employment, and entrepreneurship. One of YTF’s newest programs that embody the WISE Award goals is [3D Africa](#), which uses 3D printing technology and skills to solve critical problems and provide entrepreneurial business development and growth for youth most at-risk of vulnerable, low-wage employment, unemployment, or under-employment.

Throughout YTF programs, technology is integrated in a way that addresses a real need in the community and leads to sustainable social change. YTF’s strength lies in the ability to accurately assess community needs, design programs, provide linkages that accelerate youth opportunities, and effectively administer customized training in partnership with beneficiaries.

“We are honored to be in the company of many other phenomenal organizations, working to provide better education opportunities across the globe,” said Njideka Harry, YTF founder and CEO. “From our inception, YTF has been relentlessly committed to the holistic, positive development of youth and women where they live and work. We are committed to continue pursuing innovation in education, helped especially by the support of the WISE Awards.”

The Results: A Successful Education Model

For 16 years, award-winning YTF programs have:

- resulted in 40% increases in school academic performance
- ensured 99% average daily attendance rates in school
- helped over 90% of youth to make the transition to secondary school
- seen 96% of youth go on to higher education, with 75% entering STEM fields
- caused 100% of local teachers to integrate technology as an educational tool in their classroom for the first time
- trained over 1.6 million youth and women
- inspired and developed more than 12,000 entrepreneurial businesses (75% women-owned)
- increased economic capacity in nearly 3,900 communities
- graduated over 315,000 YTF Academy participants, with 55% choosing technology-related fields

YTF has a high job placement rate with students securing employment paying, on average, three times more in salaries. Employers say YTF graduates perform better than non-YTF employees and 40% are promoted within 3-6 months of graduation.

YTF programs are problem-based, teaching innovation processes by understanding and empathizing with communities, individuals, and at-risk peoples, and considering social needs and issues. By using real-world scenarios, YTF teaches participants to ask the right questions in design thinking and design processes. YTF believes solutions often fail because wrong questions were asked by design teams—real-world, problem-based learning teaches teams of youth to ask right questions based on real data, real people, real situations, real barriers.

ABOUT YOUTH FOR TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION

[Youth for Technology Foundation](#) (YTF) is an international non-profit, citizen-sector organization founded in 2000, and partners with marginalized and low-income communities in developing countries and the U.S. YTF has a strong track record of delivering technology, education, employment, and entrepreneurship programs for at-risk youth and women. YTF Academy encourages a participatory approach, teaches and uses technology skills, promotes collaboration and creativity, provides STEM education, integrates the engineering design and scientific inquiry processes, and emphasizes problem solving and critical thinking.

YTF, in collaboration with their partners, are inspiring the next generation of technology leaders who bring innovative answers to the problems of today and tomorrow. Please join us today by [volunteering](#) or [donating](#) to ensure more marginalized, at-risk youth are served.

To volunteer: ytf@youthfortech.com

To donate: www.youthfortech.com/donate

Follow YTF on twitter [@youthfortech](https://twitter.com/youthfortech)



www.youthfortech.com



ytf@youthfortech.com