

Digital Promise Opens Applications for the VITAL Prize Challenge to Support the Next Generation of K-12 Learning Technologies

The VITAL Prize Challenge will invest in and provide support to early-stage concepts and ideas based on innovative, equitable uses of technology and research.

Feb. 27, 2023 | **Washington, D.C.** – Global education nonprofit <u>Digital Promise</u> is excited to announce the <u>Visionary Interdisciplinary Teams Advancing Learning (VITAL) Prize</u> <u>Challenge</u> is now accepting applications. Launched by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and managed by Digital Promise, the goal of the challenge is to catalyze a new generation of emerging technologies and innovations for K-12 learning. Applications will be accepted at VITALPrize.org and will close on March 19 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

"Digital Promise and the National Science Foundation are working to provide funding, resources, and capacity-building support for small teams to bring new discoveries to educational and learning contexts with the VITAL Prize Challenge. Our main goal is to improve the experiences of those who have been historically and systematically excluded from our learning and education systems," said Jean-Claude Brizard, president and CEO of Digital Promise.

Participating teams will have the chance to receive more than \$70,000 in research, development, and commercialization support and up to \$250,000 in prizes through three competitive rounds of programming. Through a brief application, teams will describe the innovation and potential translational learning technology they hope to develop. Applicants can be from any industry or background.

"Innovation often emerges from the most unlikely places, which is why we encourage anyone with an interest in emerging technologies and in creating more equitable learning systems to participate," said Brizard. "Applicants do not need to have experience in education or technology. We welcome all to apply, especially those from communities who represent today's increasingly diverse student population." To learn more about the VITAL Prize Challenge and to apply, please visit VITALPrize.org.

This \$6 million prize challenge is made possible through a partnership between the National Science Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Schmidt Futures, and the Walton Family Foundation.

Press Contact: My Nguyen Director, Communications mnguyen@digitalpromise.org

###

About Digital Promise

Digital Promise is a global nonprofit working to expand opportunity for every learner. We work with educators, researchers, technology leaders, and communities to design, investigate, and scale innovations that support learners, especially those who've been historically and systematically excluded. Our vision is that every person engages in powerful learning experiences that lead to a life of well-being, fulfillment, and economic mobility. For more information, visit the <u>Digital Promise website</u> and follow <u>@DigitalPromise</u> for updates.

