

***Innovation Programs\_ Internships***  
***(Bright Lights, MaRS, Maximum City, Global Ideas, i-Think, Serious Games)***  
**OISE: Professional Preparation Conference**  
**December, 14, 2012**  
**(11:00-12:00noon)**

Come hear from six success stories working on innovative educational programs in urban design, social justice, science, business, global issues, and entrepreneurship. This workshop offers a unique opportunity to explore the topic of innovation in education and learn from a group of successful practitioners with experience bringing new ideas to the Grade 7-12 space in the GTA, both in-school, out-of-school and online. The groups represented include: "Bright Lights" (Neuroscience), "Global Ideas Institute" (The Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs and UTS) "Integrative Thinking" (Rotman School of Management); "MaRS Future Leaders - Boot Camp" ; "Maximum City"; "Serious Games".

**Bright Lights!**

Move beyond cookie-cutter labs with predictable results. Bright Lights gives students an opportunity to design and perform open-ended real science experiments on behaviour, learning and memory using model invertebrates. Students experience the challenges of research in a science lab setting and seek to come up with ways of explaining natural phenomena that are new to science and could lead to publishable research in collaboration with scientists at the University of Toronto. This project is supported by the Firefly Foundation, UTS and the Department of Physiology, University of Toronto.  
<http://www.fireflyfoundation.org/our-programs/bright-lights/class-room-laboratory/>

**Global Ideas Institute**

The Global Ideas Institute is a partnership between the Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs and the University of Toronto Schools (UTS). Students from across the GTA parallel the research process of an interdisciplinary team of scholars at UofT who focus on global health challenges. Last year 60 students in 12 schools tackled the problem of "Reinventing the Toilet" for the developing world. This year they will be investigating how to "scale up" the innovative micronutrient powder "Sprinkles" developed by Dr. Stanley Zlotkin of Sick Kids Hospital. The students use Integrative Thinking strategies to develop their solution to these challenges, which they pitch to an expert panel.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/ai/gii/>

**I-Think -- Summer Institute**

Our students today are facing increasingly complex and challenging problems. The summer institute provides an opportunity for students to engage with an ambiguous and changing world by exploring tools for problem-solving. Integrative thinking involves the critical examination of the conventional wisdom that forces us into unpalatable either-or choices and explores innovative ways to obtain the benefits of multiple, often seemingly incompatible, solutions. Co-sponsored by UTS and Rotman's I-

Think Initiative, this summer institute brings together students in grades 8-12 to learn the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of integrative thinking and how to apply them to resolve complex real-world problems.

<http://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/FacultyAndResearch/ResearchCentres/DesautelsCentre/Programs/I-Think.aspx>

### **MaRS Future Leaders - Boot camps**

MaRS Future Leaders is a unique hands-on program supported by one-on-one mentors, successful entrepreneurs and dynamic teachers. During this week-long program, students between the ages of 13 and 15 take part in an entrepreneurship boot camp where they will invent and test an original business idea and learn skills critical to future success. Students will learn to: see problems as opportunities, interview potential customers, identify a target market, create quick prototypes and draft a business model. The week culminates in a pitch competition where teams have 60-seconds to present their business idea to a panel of judges. For more information, visit:

[www.marsdd.com/futureleaders](http://www.marsdd.com/futureleaders)

### **Maximum City**

Maximum City is an award-winning curriculum and research project in sustainable urban design for high school students. For the past two summers, select students from a variety of schools across the Greater Toronto Area worked together with leading experts in architecture, design, transit, and civic engagement to tackle real-life sustainability challenges and planning issues. The unique lessons and expert learning modules developed in the summer program are currently being taught to a broader cohort of students as part of their in-school curriculum.

<http://maximumcity.ca/>

### **Serious Games**

'Social change' or 'serious' games are a genre of computer simulations that explore pressing issues such as poverty, human rights, global conflict and the environment. Many of these simulations have been used in the Canadian and World Studies courses at University of Toronto Schools, ranging from simple, single-period activities to complex, multi-period major projects. In this workshop we will explore a number of online simulations looking at issues such as natural disasters, energy management and sustainable cities. Digital sample assignments will be provided. For more information go to:

[www.mikefarley.weebly.com/serious-games.html](http://www.mikefarley.weebly.com/serious-games.html)

or [www.gamesforchange.org](http://www.gamesforchange.org)