

## Living2Learn Overview

Living2Learn exists to enhance K-12 education by introducing an integrative approach to authentic, place-based learning. We engage the energy, creativity, and desire of youth to be active, contributing members of their community.

Kids are the future. They are the bridge, albeit, to an increasingly uncertain future. Yet, as an energetic, creative resource they remain underutilized. Sequestered in schools, for the most part physically and socially separated from their communities, hundreds and even thousands of minds remain underutilized and unengaged at a time when doing more with less is a necessity. Engaging this, in a sense, community-wide think tank in authentic, service-learning experiences that builds stronger communities is the aim of Living2Learn.



The Living2Learn staff work on the premise that primary, secondary, and post-secondary educational experiences be a balance of classroom learning that occurs in the community. We work with municipalities, school districts, schools and teachers to actively promote, through community-driven, project-based learning experiences, authentic learning that engages students in collaborative environments with people from across their communities. We see the community as a classroom in a school without walls.



Living2Learn's pedagogy solves a number of critical, yet seemingly unrelated, problems. Youth are provided in-school and after-school authentic learning opportunities with local professionals and concerned citizens. In collaborative teams, students interpret, apply, and test formally acquired knowledge alongside adults with diverse backgrounds and passions. In this way the kids' learning gains in social, historical, and political content. Valued as contributing members of their communities, the kids' experiences foster self-worth and self-efficacy. The youth transition from consumers of education to contributors, from underutilized human resource to contributing participants in the health and wellbeing of their community. The students' transitional experiences enhance their social competence, problem-solving skills, autonomy, and sense of purpose. The realization of being a valued member of a collaborative problem-solving team and a welcomed participant in their community builds resilience in the kids and in their community.

The emergence of first-time ever global trends such as climate change, energy and water scarcity, obesity and poor public health, food insecurity, and an aging society call for first-time ever local solutions. Increasingly municipalities, businesses, families, and individuals are recognizing the need to do more with less. Now, more than ever, is the time for every community, urban or rural, to involve its youth's creative and innovative energies in giving form to their future.

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