

# iMAGINE.



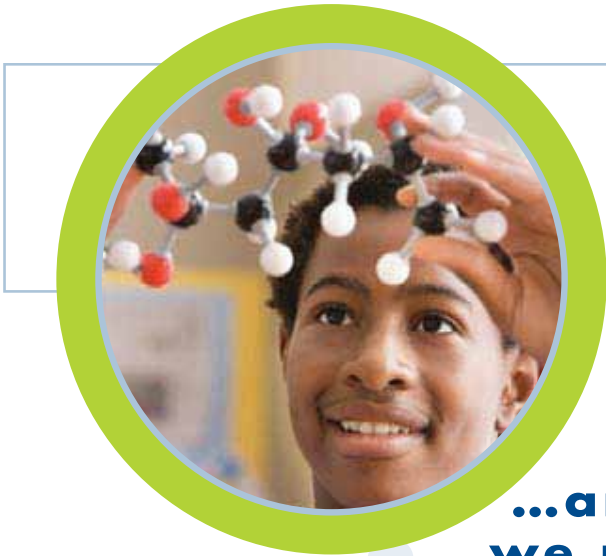
a child who can explain the principles of flight because she has been on a flight simulator.

your child creating a robot out of the stuff he/she found in the garage.

a 14-year-old who understands that forensic science doesn't just happen on CSI.

the day when real scientists are sought after like the celebrities and sports heroes of today.

**IPRAXIS** we start  
with imagination...  
CHANGING THE FACE OF SCIENCE



# ...and then we make it **happen.** imagine

**“You made it fun and easy for me to learn. Thank you for helping me with my science fair project and I hope you come back next year.”**

- 7th Grade Student To A Scientist

**“Marcus came home from the Science Fair workshop with so much enthusiasm about the chemist from GlaxoSmithKline. Over the weekend, he completed his homework without my having to remind him.”**

- 8th Grade Student's Parent

Many benefit from innovation in our technology-driven society, but not all. There are entire communities within Philadelphia that remain detached from the promise and reward of science and technology.

If nearly half the students in the School District score in the bottom quartile in science, how will we sustain this region's future technology workforce?

The number of life science companies in Greater Philadelphia has tripled in the past ten years, yet we count only a few minority business owners among them. Who will help lead the next ten years of innovation?

On one hand, Philadelphia is an international science and technology leader. On the other, there are people in our city who do not share fully in all the benefits of discovery and innovation.

iPraxis is working to link these two Philadelphias for the mutual benefit of all.

Innovation for all. It's what we believe in. It's what we aspire to. It's what we work for.



**praxis ('prak-sis):** noun. The act of putting theory into practice, the application of knowledge or skills.



**“I cannot express my gratitude to iPraxis. I really don’t think I would have been able to do a Science Fair without them.”**

- Mr. Jose Ramos  
6th Grade Science Teacher  
Cook Wissahickon

## **HOW iPraxis MAKES IT HAPPEN:**

**Scienceers:** iPraxis recruits and places science, technology, and engineering experts to work with middle school students. These volunteers are called Scienceers, which stands for science volunteer, and come from diverse backgrounds but have a single common desire – to encourage students to excel in science and expose them to as many science, technology, and engineering career opportunities as possible.

**Partner Schools:** iPraxis partners with public and charter schools in Philadelphia to enhance the middle school science curriculum in economically challenged sections of the city, with underserved and frequently underperforming students. Our focus is on students in 5th-8th grade because this is a crucial moment for youth, when they are figuring out who they are and making decisions that can have lasting impact on their potential futures. Because of our work, we have watched students grow from dreading science class to wanting to be “just like my Scienceer.” Our current partner schools are Belmont Charter School, Cook Wissahickon Elementary, Henry C. Lea Elementary, Martha Washington Elementary, and Northwood Academy Charter School.

**Experiential learning through science fair competitions:** A major focus of our work is managing school-wide science fairs in our partner schools and preparing students to compete in the Philadelphia regional George Washington Carver Science Fair and then the tri-state Delaware Valley Science Fair. Scienceers work directly with students over several months to guide them through the steps of the Scientific Method as the students craft individual projects.



**Guest teaching and career presentations:** Scienceers visit classrooms in our partner schools to deliver specific interactive sessions that mesh with the teacher’s existing curriculum. One experiment example is “Extracting DNA from Strawberries,” where students get hands-on exposure to basic genetics. Also Scienceers make career presentations designed to illustrate the viability of and necessary steps for science-based careers.

**Professional development for science teachers:** Scienceers and iPraxis staff provide professional development sessions for teachers by exposing them to the latest advances and technologies in their fields and by coaching teachers in scientific areas of the public school curriculum.

**iFunction, celebrating our students’ achievements:** We celebrate the achievements of our students through our annual award ceremony - called iFunction – where winners from all of the year’s iPraxis-related science fairs are honored. These large events, held at science-related facilities with keynote speakers – generally scientists of color – who speak about their own career experiences. Students are called up and recognized for their achievements, and presented with medals and new lab coats acknowledging their role as budding scientists.

**In 2011-2012, 42% of Pennsylvania students tested proficiently in science, for Philadelphia it was 32%, while only an abysmal 8% of Philadelphia’s black high school students scored proficiently.**

*Based on the PA Department of Education’s Pennsylvania System of School Assessment*



## ABOUT IPRAXIS

iPRAXIS creates and fosters opportunities that engage Philadelphia's underrepresented communities in science and technology through education, entrepreneurship and advocacy.

## WHO WE ARE

iPraxis is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that transforms the stereotypical image of the scientist. We will make it easier for people of color from all economic levels to succeed in science-based industries. Science supports the overall progress of humankind and therefore, more must be done to nurture all available talent. iPraxis identifies resources in academic institutions and science based firms in the Philadelphia area, and connects them with underserved communities in an effort to create equal opportunities for advancement in the sciences. Who are we? We are the teachers, principles, families, community members, scientists, engineers, technicians, business leaders, and others all striving to improve the lives of Philadelphia's youth through science.

## OUR GOAL

Our goal is to spark an interest in the sciences and encourage the pursuit of science related careers among all students. Unlike some initiatives, our programs are not designed to cream or to separate out and reward those students who already show an interest or proclivity in the sciences – although these students clearly benefit. Rather, all students work with specifically suited and trained mentors in engaging collaborations focused on personally relevant and educationally sound projects. Thus our programs and interactions are designed to capitalize on the power of relationships through activities that are both fun and transformational.

## STAFF

Jeremiah White Jr, President  
Meagan Hopkins-Doerr, Program Director

## SOME OF OUR FUNDERS & CONTRIBUTORS

ASTM International  
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**Do you want to help** us ensure that innovation benefits all people in Philadelphia? Donations may be made through PayPal on our website or by check made out to iPraxis and sent to the address below. Contact us to find out how you can make an impact.

**IPRAXIS**  
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