

Lenovo

AI Innovation Powered by Students

Strengthening and expanding AI literacy with the AI Innovator Studio

The ISTE+ASCD AI Innovator Studio is made possible in partnership with



Bringing Innovation to Life Through Creative Problem-Solving

When the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) meets the strength of durable skills, students move from asking what AI is doing to the world and start exploring ways they can positively impact it. By pairing human ingenuity with AI, students are tackling challenges once thought to be too big, too complex, or too costly to solve and are doing it in creative and collaborative ways. They are providing sustainability guidance, stopping catfishing attempts, enhancing media literacy, and helping diagnose disease at earlier stages. They are using AI to amplify their thinking to reach solutions that positively impact their communities.

ISTE+ASCD AI Innovator Studio

The AI Innovator Studio brings AI literacy to life. At its center are 15 lessons that help students build the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to use AI thoughtfully, creatively, and for good. Lessons are designed to be used in any setting whether added to units across content areas, brought into an after-school-club, or camp, or built into a broader innovation program. Educators set the pace and path that fits their students' needs.

In addition to the lessons, the Studio offers a network of support through collaborative webinars, ready-to-go resources, and a community of peers exploring AI literacy and curriculum integration. Lessons and resources may also be used as a runway to guide students to the AI Innovator Challenge.

The Studio culminates in the AI Innovator Challenge - an opportunity for student teams to design AI-powered solutions that address a challenge within their community, align to a UN Sustainable Development Goal, and demonstrate the ethical, safe, and responsible use of AI. Top teams are showcased online, with finalists presenting in-person at the annual [ISTELive](#) conference.

The AI Innovator Studio supports AI literacy and innovation for all students. By giving teachers flexible tools and ongoing support, the Studio helps schools:

- reach a wide range of learners
- integrate innovation and design thinking throughout grade levels and content areas
- build durable skills such problem-solving, collaboration, and creativity
- create inclusive pathways where all students see themselves as innovators

AI Innovator Challenge

Exploring how AI can help address issues within our communities

The AI Innovator Challenge is an opportunity for students to showcase their design thinking through the identification of a community need, a prototyped solution, and responsible and inclusive use of AI.

The 2026 competition featured 119 teams representing schools from 20 countries, finding new ways to use AI to help solve real-world problems.

Get to know the top three 2026 finalists:



Resiklo: Bringing Thoughtful Sustainability to the Digital World

A team of students from Dominican School Manila in the Philippines created an AI-powered app to support and promote environmental sustainability. Resiklo was built as a sustainability app that uses AI to scan and recognize objects and provide educational guidance about recycling while ensuring that data is handled ethically and transparently.

Resiklo uses a scanning function called EcoScan that allows users to scan everyday items to identify their materials and receive guidance on how to reduce, reuse, recycle, or properly dispose of them. A feature called EcoSort then evaluates the environmental impact of recycling this item. The app also offers a directory of recycling and donation centers to encourage real-world action. Together, these features help users make smarter environmental choices and actively support a more sustainable future.

Learn more about Resiklo [here](#).

CivicLens: Adding Needed Clarity to News Narratives

The team that developed CivicLens began with a simple question: how can people better understand the news when outlets often tell different versions of the same story? Students noted that friends and classmates would discuss current events informed only by a single source. Even when the information was accurate, the framing could lead readers to different interpretations of the same issue. The team decided to focus on media literacy and created CivicLens, to help examine how language and framing shape the way information is presented.

Using Playlab AI, the team designed a system that analyzes individual news articles and highlights potential bias indicators, such as emotionally charged language, framing choices, and source selection. The CivicLens system then explains how those patterns might influence interpretation. The goal was not to label articles as “biased” or “unbiased”, but to give readers a clearer understanding of how narratives are built.

Learn more about CivicLens [here](#).

PathoScan: Using Neural Networks to help Diagnose Disease

The PathoScan team developed their AI-based screening model out of a desire to explore how technology could help improve disease detection and outcomes for colorectal cancer, a disease that had affected all members of the three-person team.

PathoScan was designed using AI-based neural networks alongside other screening methods such as stool samples. Their model analyzes both tissue image data and biological sample patterns.

The team built a functioning concept with a 99% accurate diagnosis rate and have since developed a six-year plan to navigate expanding the project. The PathoScan team's goal is to keep contributing to a future where pathology tools become more accessible, scalable, and easier to implement across different healthcare systems.

Learn more about Pathoscan [here](#).

AI Innovation for Good

With all the ways that AI is affecting our lives and society at large, it's clear that this technology will drive new ideas and capabilities for years to come. The AI Innovator Studio provides the opportunity for a generation of students and educators to embrace the possibilities of AI by combining it with durable skills that can make significant and positive impacts on the world. The AI Innovator Studio is part of the journey students and educators are undertaking to use AI to improve communities in ways that weren't previously possible. Learn more [here](#).