

WISE ACCELERATOR ANNOUNCES NEW COHORT OF EDTECH INITIATIVES

Qatar Foundation member aims to nurture innovation in education

Doha, Qatar, July 10, 2018: The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), an initiative of Qatar Foundation (QF), has revealed the names of five EdTech initiatives selected to join its 2018-19 WISE Accelerator program.

WISE Accelerator supports the development of innovative EdTech initiatives with high potential to make a positive impact. Selected initiatives will receive support from mentors and WISE partners to scale up their startups, improve their international visibility, and identify potential partners, donors and investors through networking opportunities organized by WISE.

Chibeza Agle, Co-founder and CEO of CamBioScience, a member of the 2017-18 WISE Accelerator cohort, said: "the WISE Accelerator has had a profound impact on the development and scale-up of CamBioScience. The mentors on the program are leading figures in EdTech and business and are fully committed to helping us grow and succeed.

"As a result of WISE Accelerator, we were successful in raising our seed funding round, and were able to identify and appoint a key business advisor. We also had the opportunity to explore crucial international markets and receive advice of how to refine our international scale-up strategy."

Nayla Fahed Zreik, Co-founder of Lebanese Alternative Learning, an NGO based in Lebanon, said: "WISE Accelerator is not only about accelerating your business; it's about accelerating your mind. You will never think in the same way after a few sessions with your mentor. The WISE mentorship process is a tailor-made solution. Your mentor will provide you with potential solutions tailored to your business."

The five initiatives will kick-off the program during the WISE@NY forum that will take place on September 22 in New York. During the forum, representatives of the initiatives will take part in workshops, attend master classes, and participate in pitching sessions. The WISE Accelerator team will also organize high-level meetings for the representatives of the five initiatives with leaders and entrepreneurs of various organizations who are developing solutions and programs in education and education technology. In that regard, Mursal Hedayat, Co-founder and Director of Chatterbox, member of the newly selected cohort mentioned: "'We are absolutely delighted to be a part of the upcoming WISE Accelerator program. We look forward to working with the team and their incredible network of mentors and partners to bring a timely and impactful idea like Chatterbox to life."

The five initiatives are:

ScholarX

A social impact startup based in Nigeria, ScholarX enables African youth to access education through various education financing solutions regardless of their socio-economic background. ScholarX offers a scholarship aggregator mobile/web app, which has over 10,000 local and foreign-targeted scholarships. It also provides a micro-scholarship crowdfunding platform called 'the Village' that connects local students with tuition funding sponsors worldwide.

Chatterbox

Based in the United Kingdom, Chatterbox is a language-tutoring platform created and delivered by refugees. Chatterbox finds, trains, and then contracts highly skilled individuals who are refugees to deliver language training to their clients. Chatterbox tackles the problem of unemployment amongst refugee populations. They turn what would usually be considered a barrier to refugee employment (their mother tongue) into an asset.

Imblaze

An initiative of the Big Picture Company, a non-governmental organization based in the United States, ImBlaze is an online management platform that enables educators and students to easily and efficiently manage out-of-school internship experiences to support real-world, personalized learning. It supports students in looking for an internship. Once the internship starts, the educator in school and the mentor in the work place accompany the student in the learning process.

SmartScience

A startup based in the United States, SmartScience provides students with an online platform that facilitates learning in the sciences. The company developed a technology that allows students to test a hypothesis by measuring results on videos of real world experiments. SmartScience offers over 300 lessons in the sciences and every lesson is designed with the goal to foster the learning of the experimentation method among students.

Uptale

Uptale is a French startup that offers software-as-a-service platform to enable creators to imagine, create, publish and monitor immersive learning experiences using Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) technology. Uptale allows anyone, without any technical background or prior training, to create gamified interactive VR and AR learning content and publish it using the Uptale platform.

Find out more: <https://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-accelerator>

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About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

The World Innovation Summit for Education was established by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative, evidence-based thinking, debate, and purposeful action in education. Through the biennial summit, collaborative research and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education.

For further information about WISE, visit www.wise-qatar.org

About the WISE Accelerator Sponsor:

Santander

Banco Santander, based in Spain, is a leading retail and commercial bank with a meaningful market share in ten core countries in Europe and the Americas. Through Santander Universities, the bank supports the Higher Education sector in such areas as teaching and research, international cooperation, knowledge and technology transfer, entrepreneurship, university modernization, student national and international mobility and innovation, among others. Santander Universities maintains 1,200 collaboration agreements with universities and research centers around the world. Santander tops the Global Fortune 500 List as the company that invests the most in Corporate Social Responsibility in connection with education.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, science and research, and community development.

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QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>