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IGNITING
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WORLDWIDE

TAO LEARNING INSTITUTE

IGNITING CURIOSITY WORLDWIDE

English Language, STEAM & Entrepreneurship Program



Our Information:

- ❖ **Organization:** Tao Learning Institute
- ❖ **Project Title:** Tao Learning: Igniting Curiosity in Costa Rica
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About Us: The Tao Learning Institute is a 501c3 U.S. Non-Profit Entity with a purpose to advance education in a P-20+ Initiative, including but not limited to advancing the education in STEAM subjects and subjects deemed necessary to join the workforce.

We forecast the career market over the next century and provide resources in the advancement of education to the market. Tao Learning Institute increases literacy across multiple languages. The focus of literacy includes written, spoken, unspoken, digital, and other languages used by society or projected to be used in the forecasted future.

Project Description: We will encourage learning enterprise software such as Office 365 while encouraging the general & rural populations of Costa Rica to Ignite Curiosity in STEAM education. We have a tried & true philosophy known as The SMILE Method™ along with the SMILE Network that works with mobile devices and PCs with only an internet connection where we will explore the boundaries of entrepreneurial education. We have reshaped the pedagogical model to empower students and get out of their way as they find their own path in life with a fun and innovative method.

We will utilize our partnerships with an Award-Winning Creative Agency led by an internationally known Creative Director & CTO who have built beautiful startups and redefined numerous Fortune 500s. This Creative Agency has a division in Platanillo, Costa Rica where we have successfully trained the local young girls to embrace STEAM subjects from 2014 to Present. We have turned poorly skilled young women into Digital Entrepreneurs, led English classes in the Dominical region of Costa Rica, and we have taught uneducated youth who skip school how to appreciate agriculture, technology, and business operations. We have also helped teach locals how to get involved in the farmer's market community and setup retail shops.

With this funding, we will be able to grow this program far beyond our initial success in the Dominical, Platanillo, and Tinamaste regions.

1. Igniting Curiosity Summary

We are the first P-20+ STEAM Initiative where we enrich the lives of entire communities through education. We bring the love of learning to remote areas with hive mentality and our cloud friendly digital platform, The SMILE Network. We make STEAM cool by blending sacred arts, dance, social networks, and more all together into one cohesive learning environment.

This successfully gets people excited about learning, innovation, and bridging their own hobbies and interest with the enterprise world. We start with simple concepts in basic literacy and expand all the way to spaceship design and advanced artificial intelligence design.

2. Introduction to the Tao Learning Institute:

We encourage learning from preschool all the way to career growth with a SMILE - a Self-Motivated Impact Learning Environment. We have trained the same individuals for over 25 years and continue to encourage, inspire, and mentor curious minds of all ages. We have been in the U.S., Pakistan, India, China, and Costa Rica for over a decade. We entered the Costa Rica market 2014 where we have made significant impact in the Dominical region by creating entrepreneurs, teaching English, and spreading ideology of the power of STEAM.

We've seen great success with this program as we have brought world leaders to the area to teach the locals from over 15 countries. We have also helped the local population embrace technology, open their own businesses, and adapt the American cultural values through our STEAM literacy programs that include training in software by Adobe, Microsoft, Google and also more general subjects such as Science, Math, English, and the Arts.

3. Problem Statement: Rural Areas need to Ignite Curiosity

The rural communities of Costa Rica do not see the benefit of attending school, studying STEAM, or caring for entrepreneurship. They know there are learning options available to them, but without an end goal in sight to help feed their families, they do not take initiative into studying or immersing into such programs. Also, the programs available have very little American cultural influence and do not properly prepare them for collaboration with actual businesses or customers from the U.S.

4. Goals & Objectives:

Provide 8 workstations in the Platanillo area with a Microsoft 365 ecosystem with internet connectivity, Office 365, and a local community member who is fluent in the technology to provide access to these materials.

Use Google Ads to campaign \$300 per month (Non-Federal Share) to the surrounding communities about the benefit of this STEAM Lab that utilizes our training methodology so they may have opportunities in business for their future. Create an online group Specific for Costa Rica on the SMILE Network where those with their own device & internet may access the same training material and the same opportunities all across Costa Rica. This group can host up to 2,500 members.

5. Activities:

We will teach the SMILE Method™ once weekly for the Costa Rica group via a video conference that is available up to 2,500 participants along with the 8 workstations at the local soda in Platanillo or other available venue.

Participants will get access to unique internship opportunities with Americans via the SMILE Network. We will facilitate counseling the participants into finding the right opportunity for them.

Up to 2,500 participants will get access to an online English lesson that they can attend from their mobile device or at an appropriate venue in Platanillo, Costa Rica.

6. Methods & Design:

We will use The SMILE Method™ - a Self-Motivated Impact Learning Environment. In this method, students go through a 5-step process to encourage themselves, ignite their own curiosity, find inner passions, collaborate with like-minded individuals who share similar goals and who are discovering the same subjects, and finally to engage in community development to share wisdom back with those who need it most.

We will recruit and train Smile Coaches who do not hold the participant's hand through the learning process, but instead reminds participants how valuable it is to make mistakes and also reminds you to engage in impactful learning. This style of learning has tangible results in the community and in America instead of mundane homework with no real-world application. In this fashion, we are able to give virtual internships and cultural opportunities to participants of all levels within local companies, U.S. Companies and U.S. Organizations who are partnered with us.

7. Schedule & Timeline:

August 2019 – July 2020: We will host virtual internships, online English classes, and online STEAM immersion all on the SMILE Network for up to 2,500 participants. We will then be tasked with recruiting along with those who organically join the program via our advertising campaign.

December 2019 – January 2020 Mr. Matthew Hackney will travel to Costa Rica for 4 weeks to setup the equipment, train the assistants, and to facilitate the first group of participants.

January 2020 – July 2020: We will recruit local participants and provide flexible and consistent training on the workstations.

8. Key Personnel:

Mr. Matthew Hackney: Program Director – He is the founder of The SMILE Method™, President of Tao Learning, and is an expert on teaching entrepreneurship in STEAM. He has taught at University of California, developed the Airikai Sanctuary for mindful learning in Platanillo, Costa Rica, and leads the SMILE Network with participants worldwide.

Mr. Hackney strives for excellence and coaches others to their highest potential. His achievements can be seen in the communities he builds and the managers he creates. He lived full-time in the Platanillo area between 2014-2015 and has worked with international community development for over 15 years.

9. Partners:

Microsoft: We have built the SMILE Network on top of the Office 365 platform.

Google: Provides advertising and helps our campaign reach a larger audience.

Tao Mgt: An international business development enterprise which will provide unique STEAM internship opportunities to participants who successfully pass the initial trainings in our program.

Geekspod: is an international firm which teaches English, teaches Office 365, and other entrepreneurship training through our virtual platform.

TAOMGT.

Google

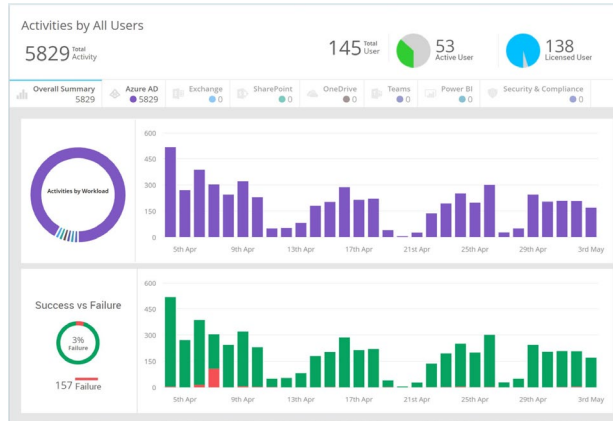
Geekspod



Microsoft

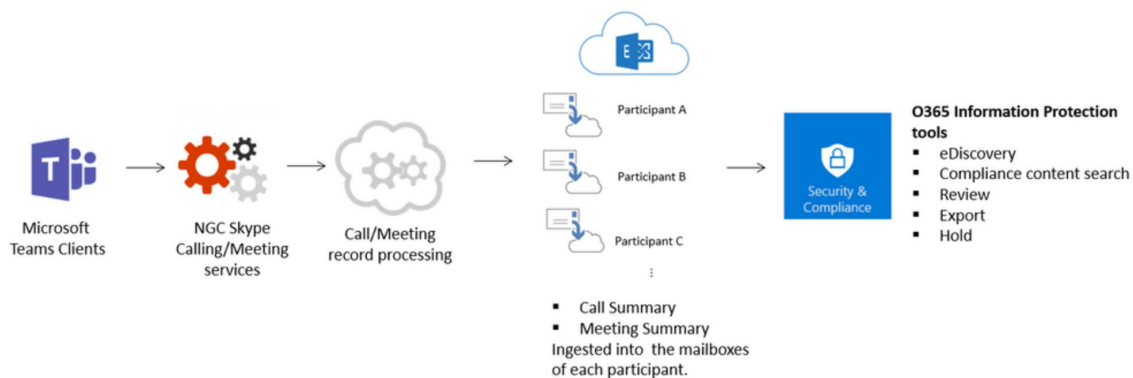
10. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:

The SMILE Network tracks the Name, Age, Gender, Education Level, and creates comprehensive Activity Reports to show STEAM literacy on the Office 365 platform. We will provide a report on Costa Rica participants monthly to the PAS which will share the digital activity usage (as outlined in figure below). Then, at the end of the program, we will share a list of all participants along with their full usage history.



eDiscovery: Advanced Communications Insight

We will utilize Microsoft’s O365 eDiscovery platform to setup automated rules on communications to ensure the SMILE Network is being utilized for positive change and impact in the rural communities we touch. We will provide automated reporting to the PAS on select keywords the PAS desires us to monitor.



11. Future Funding & Sustainability

As the program grows, we expect small business owners in the community to step forward and volunteer in our program to assist our organization. The partnership with the venue should strengthen ties with the US and allow other facilitators to step forward and use the same eco-system we will build with their own STEAM literacy programs.

The SMILE Method™ teaches self-motivation which will spread through the community. It also teaches that effort must have impact. Thus, participants will be challenged to find ways their learning modality can have a positive impact in their community while simultaneously achieving their desire to learn.

If small local businesses embrace this program, they will ask for interns directly from our participants, whereby we will be able to charge a nominal stipend to work with each participant. At this point, the program could become sustainable as small business owners will provide funding to the Tao Learning Institute to work with the interns in our training program. We also expect successful participants who go on to open their own businesses to donate back so we may give more opportunities to the local communities.