

LEARNING
UNLIMITED



2

year





Welcome to LU!

By engaging college students as volunteer leaders of educational programs for middle and high school students, we aim to:

Give every 7th-12th grade student the opportunity to find what they are passionate to learn, and give college students a chance to explore teaching, leadership, and social entrepreneurship.

This is what we've been up to!

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Letter from the CEO

Dear Supporters,

A 10th-grade girl first discovers that she loves astrophysics when a college student shows her a picture of another galaxy. An 8th-grade boy, also in a class led by a college student, finds joy in a discussion about the political ramifications of the Arab Spring. We have all been touched by people around us, like these college students, who have taken an interest in our growth and helped us achieve it.

Over a thousand college students across the country volunteer to change lives through our programs. If you are reading this, then you are one of the people who have touched us — perhaps by volunteering, or donating, or advising us — and so you’ve made what those college students do possible. Thank you!



I’m here to tell you what we’ve been able to do with your support, and it’s a lot! Here’s just a small taste of our last year:

- **5 new programs, at Boston College, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, UCLA, Southwestern University, and a program run by Granite Hills High School for area middle school students.**
- **Over 6,000 middle and high school students reached by over 1,000 university volunteers.**
- **\$60,000 in startup funds raised.**
- **Finalist status in MassChallenge, the world’s largest global startup competition.**
- **More Parents’ Programs, better software for our chapters, and a new Splash manual for how to create a successful program.**

I hope that you’ll enjoy the rest of this update to you. Once again, thank you for everything you’ve done to make Learning Unlimited possible.

Sincerely,

Daniel Zaharopol
CEO, Learning Unlimited



Our Programs

Learning Unlimited engages college students as volunteer leaders of educational programs for middle and high school students. The most popular program is [Splash](#), a weekend where students choose between hundreds of different courses and find what they love to learn.

Our Classes

Our classes are designed and taught by college students. Here are a few popular examples:

[Quantum Mechanics and Semiconductors](#) (UCLA)

[Draining Relationships: Exploring Gender Dynamics in the Twilight Saga](#) (Boston College)

[Chemistry of Flavor](#) (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)

[Toilets!](#) (an engineering course - MIT)

[The Philosophy of Star Wars](#) (Stanford)

[Boom Boom Pow: An Introduction to Street Drumming](#) (University of Chicago)

[Mad Science, Mad Math](#) (Southwestern)

[From Heathcliff to Harry: Creating Characters](#) (Duke)

It's a Win...



Students, Grades 7-12

- Find an intellectual community
- Build their self-image as scholars
- Find what they love to learn
- Meet college role models

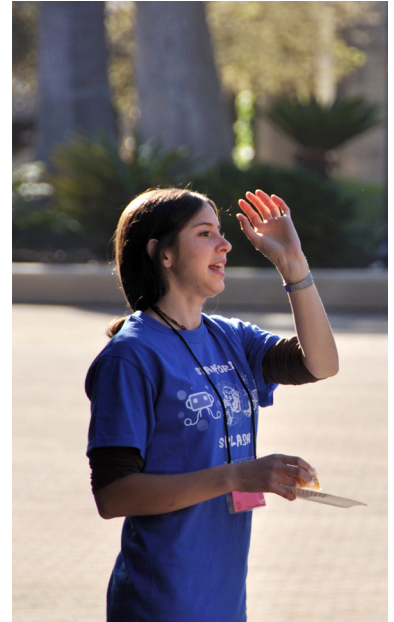
Win,



College-Age Teachers

- Get a first taste of teaching
- Explore a meaningful volunteer opportunity
- Build presentation & public-speaking skills

Win!



College-Age Leaders

- Become social entrepreneurs
- Design and lead programs for up to 2000 kids
- Gain leadership skills while making a real difference

From the Lab to the Classroom: Jeff Simon's Story

Jeff Simon told his parents he was leaving his graduate program at Stanford University, where he was earning money to study sustainable plastics, during a family vacation in Jamaica.

“But why? You’re so smart,” Simon recalls his parents asking.

Perhaps the contrast of the lush beaches for tourists with the harsh realities of life for hotel employees reminded Simon of the contrasts he felt at Stanford: in a position to be envied by any scientist from the outside, but feeling frustrated and out of place within.

When Simon arrived at Stanford in Fall 2009, he quickly became involved in Stanford Splash. Simon’s first Stanford Splash class was a powerpoint lecture titled, “How Science is Saving the World,” in which he lectured on bulletproof vests and medicines.

“It was boring. The students didn’t like it, I didn’t blame them,” Simon said.

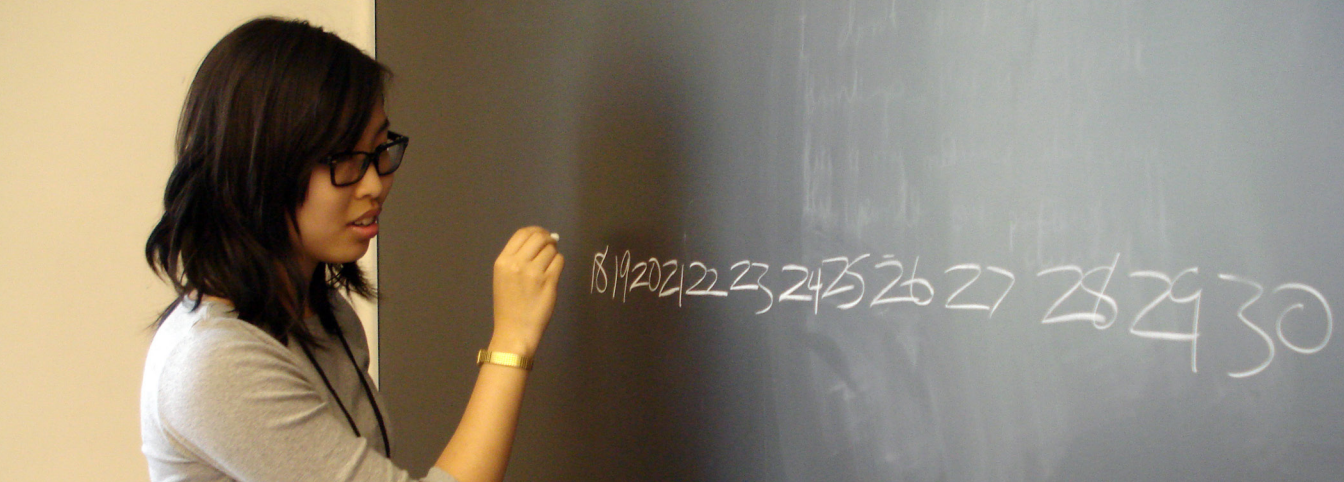
In the following months, Simon became more involved with Stanford Splash, even traveling to underserved high schools to teach science classes on Stanford Splash’s behalf – this time, using hands-on demonstrations to motivate scientific concepts in lessons that he continued to teach at Stanford Splash.

“Science is not old and in a textbook and dead. It’s alive and needs to be discovered, and it can be discovered through asking questions. You don’t need to tell a student why the concept is important. You make it obvious,” Simon said.

Due in part to Simon’s outreach, last year over 600 students attended Stanford Splash for free, and Stanford Splash subsidized transportation for over 400 students.

Jeff started teaching high school chemistry at Passaic High School in New Jersey this fall through Teach for America.





Impact

“[The programs] have become very important pieces of who I am. It’s given me the opportunity to get out of my boring high school classes and discuss much more interesting and applicable things.” – *Mike, a student at MIT Splash.*

“It’s opened opportunities for postsecondary education for students who have no other opportunity to do so.” – *Sinnika, a counselor at Collins Academy High School on the West Side of Chicago, where over 96% of students are low-income. One of her students switched to an honors math class after attending Splash! Chicago, because he discovered he wanted to be an actuary.*

“At the end of the class, two students asked me for help with a homework problem from their high school chemistry class. Looking at the abstract, scientifically meaningless problem, I realized that the students might not be learning about the really interesting stuff—the scientific and technological challenges of the near future—in their high school science coursework. To me, filling that gap is what Splash is all about.” – *Martin, a teacher and leader at Northwestern Splash.*

“I have found my work here to be extremely exciting simply because it is so unusual that someone as young as I is able to hold so much responsibility.” – *Michelle, program/chapter leader as an MIT undergraduate; now part of Teach for America.*

LU: A Timeline

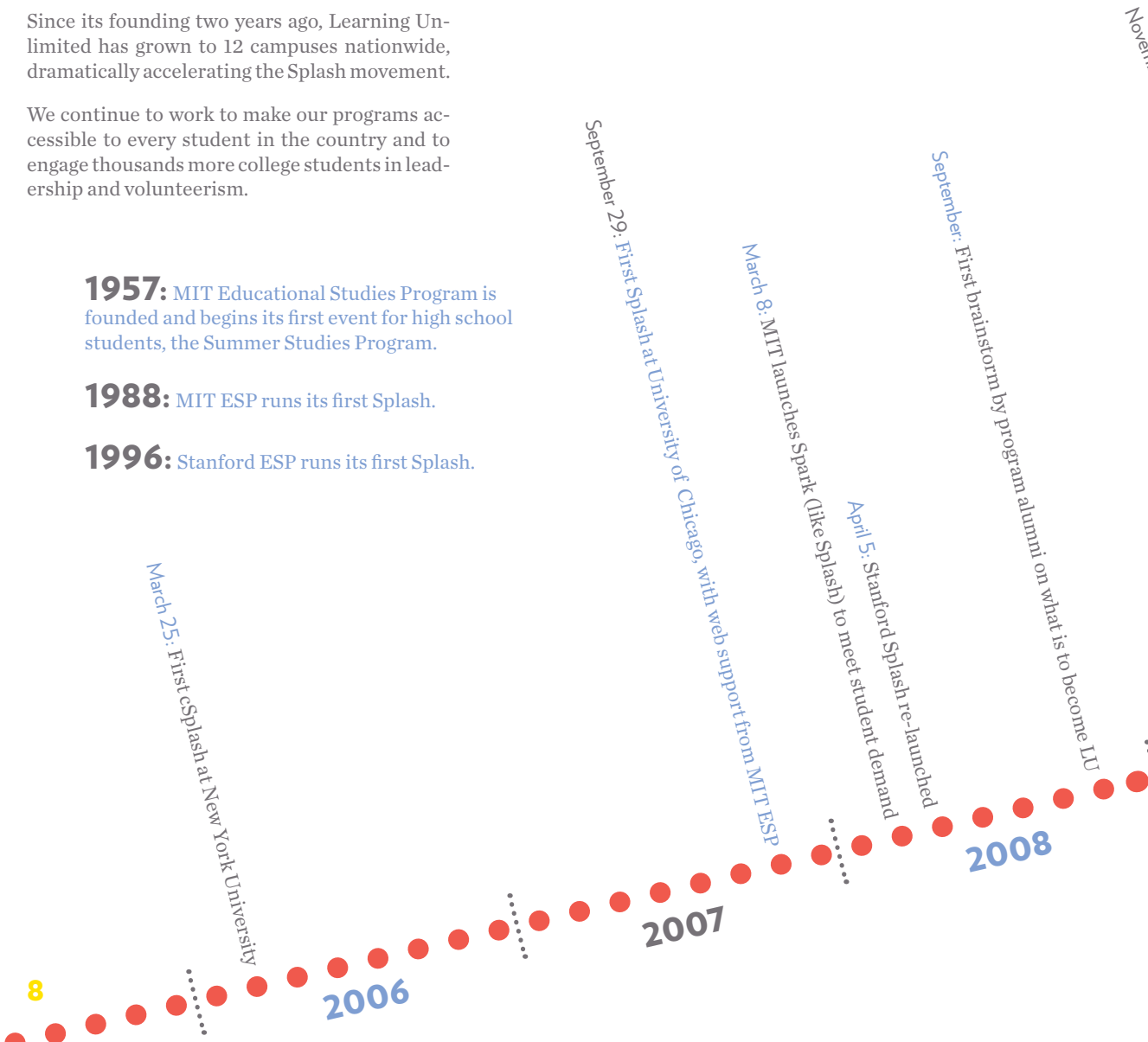
Since its founding two years ago, Learning Unlimited has grown to 12 campuses nationwide, dramatically accelerating the Splash movement.

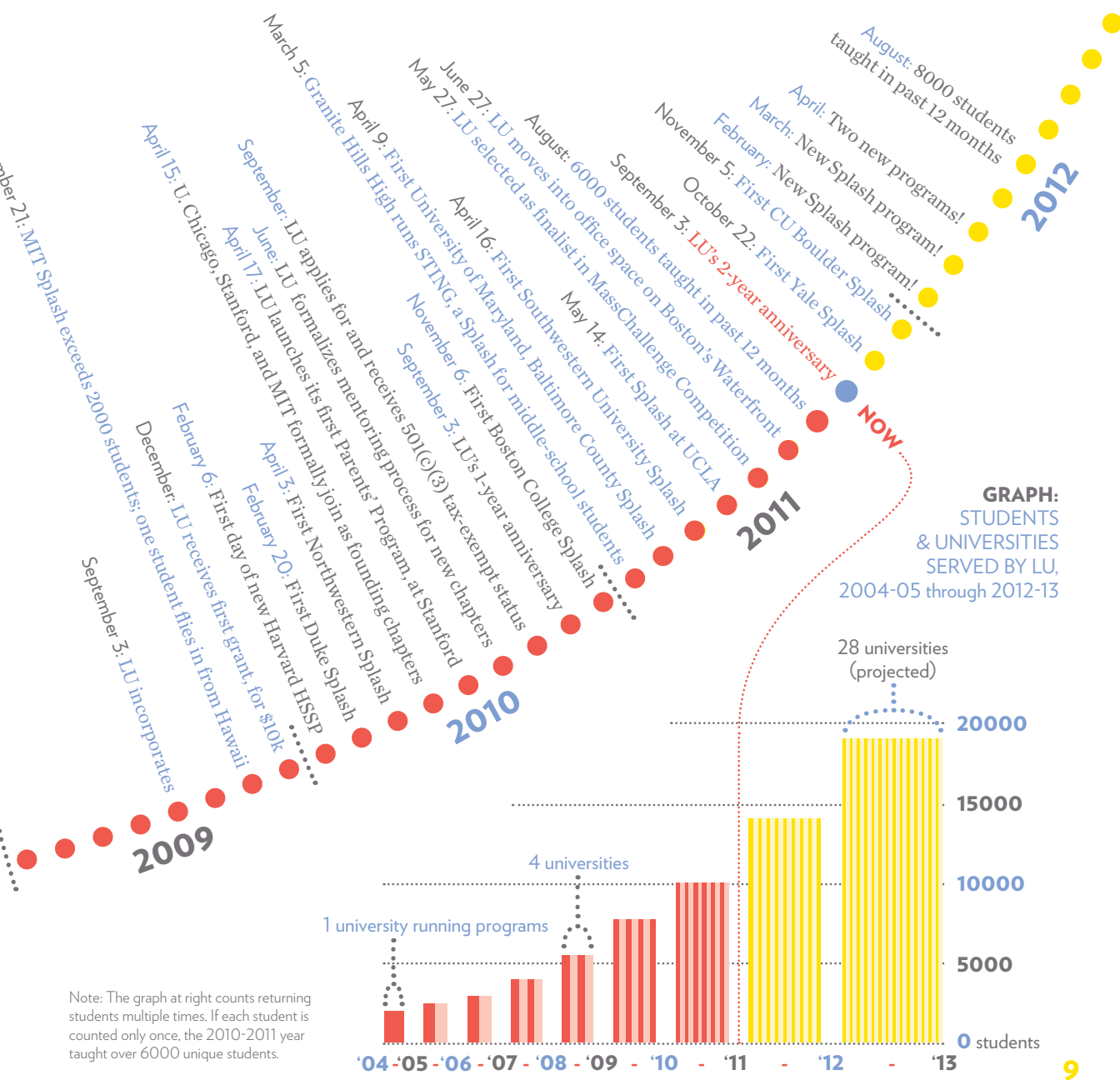
We continue to work to make our programs accessible to every student in the country and to engage thousands more college students in leadership and volunteerism.

1957: MIT Educational Studies Program is founded and begins its first event for high school students, the Summer Studies Program.

1988: MIT ESP runs its first Splash.

1996: Stanford ESP runs its first Splash.





Chapters and Startups

Boston College

Boston College ran their first Splash with LU's mentorship in November 2010. Founded by former MIT Splash student Hanyin Cheng, the group quickly decided to run two Splash programs per year. Their second Splash, in April 2011, drew nearly 300 students. With the rapid success they've gained on-campus and in the community, they are expanding their programs to include trips to area high schools to run more easily-accessible Splashes, and running programs on their campus for college students to learn from fellow college students.

University of Maryland, Baltimore College

UMBC ran their first Splash in April, 2011 under the leadership of founder Mindy Or, who heard about Splash from a friend involved with the University of Chicago program. With support from Learning Unlimited, Mindy and her team recruited 60 students to their first endeavor, with popular classes such as "The Chemistry of Flavor" and "Volts and Hot Lead." With their first project successfully funded through Kickstarter, UMBC is achieving financial sustainability and is rapidly growing their program. Their next Splash will be in March 2012.

*If you **are** or **know of** a student interested in **starting an LU Chapter**, please get in touch: [email info@learningu.org](mailto:info@learningu.org)*

LU CHAPTERS

Boston College: Education for Students by Students
<http://bcsplash.learningu.org>

MIT: Educational Studies Program
<http://esp.mit.edu>

Stanford: Educational Studies Program
<http://www.stanfordesp.org>

University of Chicago: Splash! Chicago
<http://splashchicago.learningu.org>

LU STARTUPS

Duke University
<http://dukesplash.learningu.org>

Granite Hills High School
<http://granite.learningu.org>

Northwestern University
<http://nusplash.learningu.org>

Southwestern University
<http://susplash.learningu.org>

Splash at UCLA
<http://splashatucla.learningu.org>

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
<http://splashumbc.learningu.org>

Yale University
<http://yale.learningu.org>

OTHER

Harvard: Educational Studies Program
<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~esp/>

NYU: cSplash
<http://www.cims.nyu.edu/~csplash/index.php>

Growing a Movement

LU employs a small number of paid staff that coordinate a large, geographically diverse team of volunteers to work with students (via e-mail, phone and in-person visits) organizing Splash events at universities across the country.

With our help, new programs can get off the ground much faster, and with more success, than they would otherwise. Our software, resources, and publicity can quickly accelerate the growth and success of an established program. Finally, the continuity of knowledge that we provide can be essential to a college student group.

We recognize that there is a balance to be struck between exploiting economies of scale and fostering independent, grassroots volunteer efforts at universities. To that end, we:

- Offer detailed advice and mentoring on planning and recruiting, without specifying governance structures or target audiences for our chapters. Our job is to facilitate their program, not control it.
- Provide a knowledge base of best practices and how-to guides.
- Develop open-source software (60,000 lines of code) providing the automation necessary for small teams of administrators to manage hundreds of teachers and thousands of students.
- Create a national community enabling student leaders to network, collaborate, and learn from each other.

Learning Unlimited 2010-2011

Students Served: 6,000

Courses Offered: 1,000+

University Volunteers: 1,000+

Campuses: 12

Total value provided: \$1.4M*

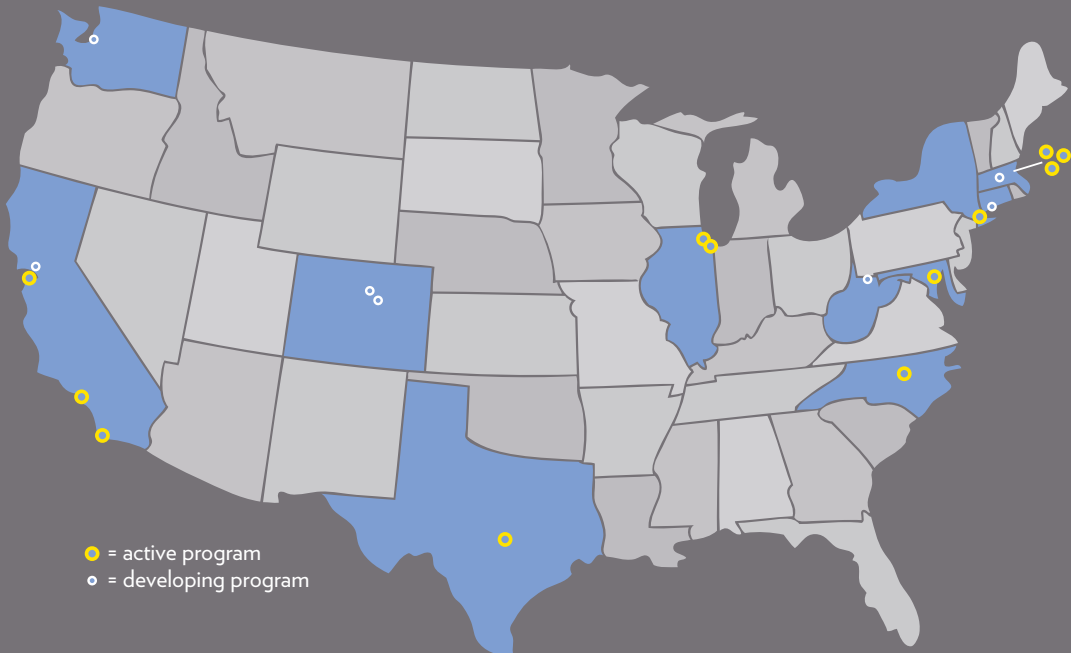
Value: \$10/student to LU is leveraged by volunteers into value of nearly \$250/student

* sum of program budgets, value of volunteer time, and classroom space contributed by universities

“I have been in education for 15 years and I have never seen a program impact so many kids on a single weekend. It changes the way kids think about their future.”

- Dave Hoopes, Principal at Impact Academy

The Scope of Learning Unlimited: 2011



The Future

There are over 5,000 colleges and universities in the United States. There are Splashes at large schools and small schools; urban schools and rural schools; tech schools, liberal arts schools, and everything in-between, in diverse geographic and cultural regions. Why can't there be a Splash at all 5,000 universities nationwide?

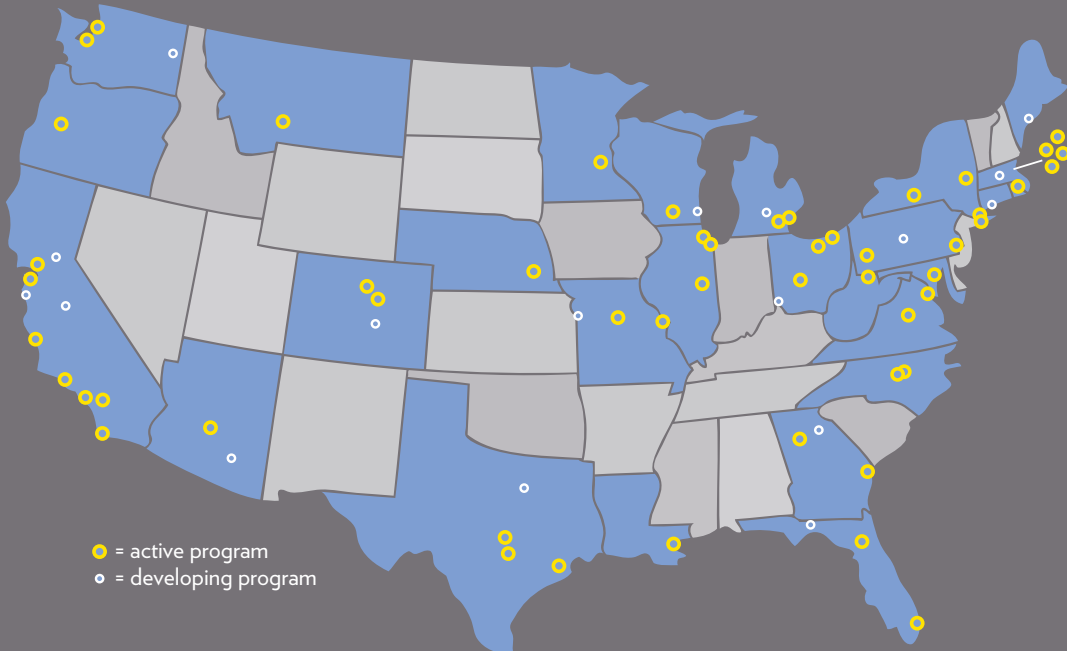
Over the coming years, LU will continue to grow the movement of college students showing younger students how to love learning. As one of our volunteers

recently put it, "Splash the phenomenon has been launched, and is on a roll."

The map below shows how the country might look in just a few years. *This coming year, our objectives are as follows:*

- 7 new Splash programs (from 12 to 19 programs)
- 8,000 pre-college students (vs. 6,000 this year)
- 1,200 college student volunteers (vs. 1,000)
- Develop evaluations system to measure impact
- Increase LU's volunteer pool by 50%
- \$150,000 in grant and donor support

Projected Scope of Learning Unlimited: 2016



Learning Unlimited Thanks Its Donors

Up to \$20,000

The Baskin Family Foundation
Google Matching Gift Program
Mathematics Foundation of
America
J.D. Zamfirescu-Pereira

Up to \$10,000

The Irving Foundation

Up to \$1,000

Anonymous
Jason Alonso
James J. Angel
Tania and Narcis Aron
Santanu Chakraborty
Sandra Hao
Catherine Havasi
Jean & John Heins
Weizhong Ji
Charles Manski
Lance W. Ozier
Vanessa Rusczyk
Ann P. Salmon
Mary-Jane and Mare Shaw
Lorraine Thomas
William James Watt
Daniel Zaharopol
Christina M.D. Zamfirescu

Up to \$100

Anonymous (13)
Stephanie Bachar
Yakov Berchenko-Kogan
Mira Bernstein
Agnes Bloomfield
Deborah Boccio
Linda Brown
Jane Butt
Shuling W. Chou

Up to \$100 (continued)

Lee-Jung Julie Chu
Lesley Forde Conway
Kristin Coombs
Melanie K. Dana and
Marya D. Zilberberg
Fawn T. Dare
Matthew and Cookie Davis
Marisa Debowsky
Deborah Devincenti
Julia Ehlers
Ira Fischer
Jai Ford
Eugene Fridman and Irina Shvidler
Kathleen Friend
Samatha Ganji
Mylinh Ha-Do
Ying Holden
Robbin Kawabata
David Kim
Sophie Kim
James W. Lacey
Sarah Langdon
Jian Li
Anita Madhava
Donna M. McLaren
Natasha Middleton
Ellen A. Mohnkern
Ann S. Pollock
Robb H. and Claudia S. Roehl
Beth E. Schueler
Ellen Seebacher
Lisa Seibert
Oleg Sokolov
Rob Speer
Armin Sternberg
Kelvin L. and Janu I. Thomas
Teri Vo
Lori Wasserman
Yalu Wu
Radu Zaharopol

Finances

LU has completed the year with more income than expenses, and we continue to grow towards a sustainable financial future.

Income

Donations • \$50,000
Grants • \$25,000
Chapters • \$1,000
Miscellaneous • \$1,000
Total • \$77,000

Expenses

Salaries and Staff \$27,000
Chapter Services \$6,000
Development \$2,000
IT \$2,000
Operations \$7,000
Total • \$44,000

Photo Captions

Cover: Juggling at MIT Splash

Page 2: Leaders of Splash at UCLA

Page 4: A student in a class on Non-Newtonian Fluids at MIT Splash

Page 5: Juggling, Splash! Chicago; Visual Illuminations Explained, Northwestern; leader at Stanford

Page 7: Puzzles in Combinatorics, MIT HSSP

Page 11: Fashion in Revolution: Fashion History from Rococo to the Napoleonic Era, MIT HSSP

“It was one of the greatest learning experiences
for me ever, if not the best.”

- an MIT Splash student

BECOME INVOLVED!

Volunteer!

You can make a difference applying
your skills: management, mentoring,
legal advice, fundraising, and more.

www.learningu.org/participate

Donate!

A \$10 donation becomes a \$250 impact
through our volunteers and partners.

Donate today on our website:

www.learningu.org/donatenow

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Staff and Volunteers

Daniel Zaharopol, CEO

Michael Shaw, Chief of Staff

Jason Alonso, CFO

Chris Kennedy, New Chapter Mentoring

Yalu Wu, Chapter Services

Amy Estersohn, Community Relations

Luke Joyner, Graphic Design

Board of Directors

J. D. Zamfirescu, Chairman

Roshini Zachariah, Secretary

Catherine Havasi

Weizhong Ji

Scott Meyer

Beth Schueler

Yalu Wu

This document was produced entirely in-house, with writing by Dan Zaharopol and Amy Estersohn, photography by Amy Estersohn and Michael Price, and design by Luke Joyner.

For more information visit us online: www.learningu.org

