

## Program Materials

### Coronavirus Response Training 1: Introduction to Virtual Exchange and the Importance of Partnerships

April 29, 2020

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#### Topics

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1. About the Stevens Initiative
2. Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic
3. Presenter Introductions
4. Introduction to Virtual Exchange
5. Importance of Partnerships
6. Questions and Discussion
7. Wrap Up and Next Steps

#### Presenters

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Ed Gragert, Director, Global Woods Consultancy

Jameela Jafri, Curriculum Developer, STEAMuseum

Kholoud Khalifa, Facilitation Fellow, Soliya, and Lecturer, University of Applied Sciences, Vienna

Ramzi Naja, Head of Innovation, NuVu-Karam

Jon Rubin, Director, COIL Consulting

Henry Shepherd, Assistant Director of Research and Design, The Stevens Initiative, The Aspen Institute

Taylor Woodman, Internationalization Specialist, University of Maryland Office of International Affairs

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The Stevens Initiative is an international effort to build global competence for young people in the United States and the Middle East and North Africa by growing and enhancing the field of virtual exchange: online, international, and collaborative learning.



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## Presenter Bios

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**Dr. Ed Gragert** has four decades of experience in global education. He has most recently served as Interim Directors of iEARN-USA in New York and the Global Campaign for Education in Johannesburg, South Africa. From 2012-2015 he served as the Director of the Global Campaign for Education-US, an advocacy coalition in Washington, DC of 80 organizations committed to securing a quality education for all young people worldwide. Earlier, for 23 years he served as the Executive Director of iEARN-USA, pioneering and expanding online collaborative learning among schools worldwide. He also served as Executive Director of ICYE-US, an international youth exchange program, and worked for the International Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. Ed received a BA in Japanese political science from the University of Washington and an MA in Korean History and PhD in Japanese History from Columbia University. He published [Landownership Under Colonial Rule: Korea's Japanese Experience](#) in 1994. He has authored numerous articles and book chapters on educational technology and teacher professional development and has a column on Huffington Post.

**Jameela Jafri** has spent nearly 18 years in the field of science education, starting as a high school science teacher and then transitioning into the nonprofit sector. Her career has focused on developing programs and opportunities for youth from communities traditionally underrepresented in the sciences, especially girls, and supporting STEM professionals to engage in outreach. She is the curriculum developer for STEAMuseum, a digital museum created through collaborative exchange between high school students from Chicago and Casablanca working together virtually. In addition to STEAMuseum, Jameela works on a range of projects that support science education and global learning. Jameela holds a Masters Degree from Teachers College, Columbia University and lives in Oakland, California.

**Kholoud Khalifa** is a facilitation fellow and senior facilitator at Soliya, and has over 12 years of experience in the virtual exchange world. Kholoud is also a lecturer of journalism and politics at the University of Applied Science in Vienna, Austria, and has designed and taught a number of classes on emotional intelligence, strategic communications and conflict resolution. Since 2016, Kholoud has been a media trainer at Fair Observer and occasionally write articles for their publication. In addition to this, Kholoud previously worked as a Communications expert for the United Nations, as well as a Culture Analyst and Program Coordinator for the Dutch based consultancy firm Walking the Talk. Kholoud has a B.A. in journalism from the American University in Cairo and an M.A. in conflict resolution from Kings College London.

**Ramzi Naja** is the Head of Innovation for the NuVuKaram program. He played an integral role in launching the innovative education programs in Reyhanli and Istanbul, Turkey starting in the Fall of 2017. Part of Ramzi's responsibilities has been organizing and coordinating the virtual exchange program that connects students at Karam Houses in Turkey with American youth across NuVu partner schools in the United States. Prior to joining NuVu in 2017, Ramzi taught architecture studios and seminars and organized a series of symposia while studying at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He began his career practicing architecture in Beirut, Lebanon after earning a professional degree from the Lebanese American University.

**Jon Rubin** was Founder and served as Director of the SUNY COIL Center from 2006-2017. He directed the National Endowment for the Humanities funded: COIL Institute for Globally Networked Learning in the Humanities (2010-13), which engaged 47 U.S. and international universities in COIL course development. He also directed the COIL Center's Stevens Initiative project in the MENA region (2016-17) and launched the State Department funded US-Mexico Multistate COIL project which linked 18 Mexican higher education institutions with 14 US campuses. Between 2002-11 he implemented his Cross-Cultural Video course at SUNY Purchase where his students collaboratively co-produced videos with students in Turkey, Russia, Mexico, Belarus, Lithuania, and Germany. In 2017, he created COIL Consulting ([coilconsult.com](http://coilconsult.com)) to support universities around the world develop COIL virtual exchange initiatives. He has written many articles on COIL and is presently co-writing the Guide to COIL Virtual Exchange, to be published by Stylus Publishers in 2021.

**Henry Shepherd** is Assistant Director of the Stevens Initiative. Prior to joining the Aspen Institute, he was a student in the Master of Science in Foreign Service program at Georgetown University, where he was research assistant to former Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker. Earlier, he coordinated the volunteer training program at Soliya, a New York-based organization that facilitates virtual exchange between young people in Western and predominantly Muslim societies. As an undergraduate at Brown University, he helped launch Strait Talk, an international initiative that conducts youth dialogue across the Taiwan Strait. He is from Boston.

**Taylor Woodman** has a decade of experience facilitating academic exchange and supporting the internationalization of U.S. university campuses. He serves in the Office of International Affairs (OIA) at University of Maryland, supporting faculty development and ongoing assessment projects for international virtual exchange programming. Prior to joining OIA, Taylor served as the Manager of Advising Services in the Office for Study Abroad at the George Washington University. In addition to his professional roles, Taylor researches and teaches on international higher education, academic exchange, qualitative methods and Cuban education. Taylor's research has been published in *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*, *Education Policy and Analysis Archives*, *Journal of Comparative and International Higher Education*, *The Journal of Higher Education* and *International Educator*. Taylor holds a B.A. in Public and Urban Affairs from Virginia Tech and a M.A. in Education Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Maryland. Taylor recently completed his Ph.D. studies from the University of Maryland's International Education Policy Program. To connect with Taylor, visit [www.taylorwoodman.com](http://www.taylorwoodman.com).

The logo for the Stevens Initiative, featuring the words "Stevens" and "Initiative" in a blue serif font. The "I" in "Initiative" has a decorative flourish. The logo is positioned above a decorative blue geometric shape at the bottom of the page.

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