

Virtual School Meanderings

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August 2024 EdTech Catalyst: Spotlight on Pitch Winners & Upcoming EdTech Opportunities!

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An item from a US-based K-12 online learning program.

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Celebrating our 2024 EdTech Pitch winners!

Michigan Virtual recently hosted its third annual EdTech Innovation Pitch Contest, where five visionary educators from Michigan pitched their ideas for a chance at \$22,000 in startup grants and invaluable legal and creative startup assistance. Held on July 18, the event showcased the transformative power of technology in education. It's not too late to catch the action—you can watch the recording [on our website](#), and for those interested in spoilers, the next paragraph highlights the winners.

Meet the winners!

1st Place

Valerie Rackley from [MindWired Labs](#) in Lapeer, Michigan

MindWired Labs offers affordable, hands-on STEM education kits that engage learners in building and programming projects like alarm sensors and vending machines. These kits help students

develop a deep understanding of embedded systems and IoT technologies, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

2nd Place

Devon Riter from [CommunityConnect](#) in Ann Arbor, Michigan

CommunityConnect is an online platform designed to connect K-12 teachers with community partners, facilitating the creation of authentic and engaging class projects. This innovative tool fosters collaboration and enriches the educational experience by bringing real-world applications into the classroom.

3rd Place

Jacob Marchywka from [NoteClear](#) in Taylor, Michigan

NoteClear is an AI-powered tool that enhances the value of classroom notes. By generating practice problems and summaries of past notes, NoteClear helps students review and prepare for quizzes and exams more effectively, transforming how students interact with their study materials.

4th Place

Jasmine Woodruff from [NexLevel Tech Solutions](#) in Detroit, Michigan

NexLevel focuses on digital safety education for children and parents. The platform offers services and tools that help parents monitor and ensure their children's online safety, addressing a critical need in today's digital age.

5th Place

James (JC) Price from [Paraillel](#) in Southfield, Michigan

Paraillel is an AI-driven platform designed to streamline curriculum development, student assessments, and data analysis for educators. By automating these time-consuming tasks, Paraillel allows educators to dedicate more time to impactful teaching and direct student engagement.

Supporting EdTech Innovation in Michigan

The Michigan EdTech Innovation Pitch Contest, a testament to Michigan Virtual's commitment to fostering educational innovation, was held in partnership with the MSU Research Foundation and Michigan SBDC. Educators competed for business startup funding and received valuable consultations from [Michigan Creative](#) and [Foster Swift](#). Additional sponsors include [Consumers Energy](#), [MEA Center for Leadership and Learning](#), [Case Credit Union](#), and [Dewpoint](#). For prize details and more information on the contest, [visit our website](#).



EdTech Innovation Opportunities

Swim in the SupeTank

SupeTank is your chance to present solutions to K-12 superintendents, industry leaders, and investors. Join us in December 2024 in New York City for pitch sessions, networking, and the Supes' Choice Awards Gala. Apply by August 15, 2024. [Learn more and apply at SupeTank 2024.](#)

Pitch at SXSW EDU

The SXSW EDU Launch Startup Competition is your chance to boost market exposure, attract investors, and form strategic partnerships. Pitch your innovative EdTech solutions to judges and a live audience at SXSW EDU 2025 this March in Austin, Texas. Don't miss the early entry deadline on September 8, 2024. [Learn more and seize this opportunity to elevate your startup on a global stage!](#)

Nominate Impactful EdTech Tools

Tech & Learning is seeking nominations for innovative products that provide versatility, value, and effective solutions for schools. This is a great opportunity to showcase your product in a special edition reaching over 70,000 district leaders and administrators. [Apply or nominate by August 30, 2024](#), to highlight your product's impact and gain valuable exposure.



AI Lab Spotlight

The AI Lab at *Michigan Virtual* is revolutionizing K-12 education through strategic AI integration. Partnering with schools across Michigan, we help form AI task forces that assess readiness, develop vision statements, and enhance expertise in professional learning, curriculum strategies, and AI literacy. This collaborative approach allows each district to tailor AI integration to their specific needs.

In addition to supporting task forces, we assist curriculum directors by evaluating staff familiarity with AI, setting goals, and providing professional development to ensure effective implementation throughout the school year. AI councils, composed of educators and community members, are also guided to explore AI's potential in teaching and learning, moving toward innovative instructional methods.

Our mission is to empower districts to lead their AI initiatives with strategic support for sustainable success. Schools are invited to partner with the AI Lab to navigate the complexities of AI in education and achieve their vision for the future of learning.

To learn more about the AI Lab, [visit our website](#).

Stay Connected

Don't miss out on the latest updates, insights, and opportunities *Michigan Virtual* has to offer. Follow us and stay connected with the Michigan innovation community using our socials link below.

Thank you for being a valued member of the *Michigan Virtual* community! Let's continue to collaborate and shape the future of innovation together.

Did you miss our last newsletter?

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