

FLAT CLASSROOM™

The **Flat Classroom® Project** is a global collaborative project that joins together middle and senior high school students. This project is part of the emerging trend in internationally aware schools to embrace a holistic and constructivist educational approach to work collaboratively with others around the world in order to create students who are competitive and globally minded. The project was co-founded by [Vicki Davis](#) (Westwood

Schools, USA) and [Julie Lindsay](#) (International Educator and Consultant) in [2006](#). Since then a series of projects have been implemented that have joined over 6000 students and educators from more than 25 countries in virtual and face-to-face opportunities that have enhanced cultural understanding, formed lasting friendships and shaped the future of education to change the world as we know it today.

Since the original founding a grassroots movement of teachers has joined with the original pioneers to continue the original Flat Classroom Project. Classrooms are flattened as teacher's blog, share personal learning networks, collaborate on wikis and reach out to those who share a common curricular perspective. There is now a **series of Flat Classroom® Projects** that run multiple times every year and include teachers, students and of course classrooms from around the world. The content of these projects varies but elements for **students** include:

- A deeper understanding of the effects of technology on our world that leads students to not only study but actually experience the 'flatteners'
- An opportunity to be grouped with global partners to explain trends, give personal viewpoints and create a video containing an outsourced video segment from their global partners.
- Access to an educational network, blogging, posting photos, videos etc and a wiki, to plan their topic and build a web page on the topic.
- Being assessed on a common criterion based rubric
- Real-life flavours of deadlines, accountability and interdependence
- An opportunity to co-create multimedia and in some projects having this reviewed by global judges
- Participating in a virtual student summit, using Elluminate, to complete the project and showcase their learning.

Projects for all levels of K-12 learning have emerged including **Flat Classroom® Project** (The World is Flat concepts); **Digiteen Project** (digital citizenship); **Eracism** (global debating for cultural understanding); **NetGenEd** (emerging technologies); **A Week in the Life** (Gr 3-5); **Building Bridges to Tomorrow** (K-2). Our highly connected world gives educators the global imperative to connect students and the wider community.

Flat Classroom® Projects have the power to produce world-class students with a worldview, based on understanding, and not misinformed bias from the media. It will require many hard working, well-informed, ethical, diligent teachers and visionary administrators to give them the framework to operate. How about you? Will you be an advocate for a Flat Classroom project at your school?



Flattening Classrooms,
Engaging Minds
*Move to Global Collaboration
One Step at a Time*



Julie Lindsay Vicki A. Davis

Co-Founders of the Flat Classroom® Project

Our Book! – 'Flattening Classrooms, Engaging Minds: Move to Global Collaboration One Step at a Time'

Published by Pearson, January 2012, the book about projects and pedagogy is designed to teacher about global collaboration and bring teachers into meaningful, curriculum-based global interactions themselves. It is now available through Amazon and other leading booksellers. Find all details at flatclassroombook.com.

Recognitions of note



SHORT-LISTED (September 2009) for a World Innovation Summit for Education award in the pluralism section. <http://www.wise-qatar.org/>



FIRST PLACE in the Best Wiki 2008 category of the 2008 Edublog Awards
<http://edublogawards.com/2008>



FIRST PLACE in the Best Wiki 2006 category of the 2006 Edublog Awards.



FIRST PLACE in the [SIGTel Online Learning Awards for 2007](#). Special Interest Group Telelearning (now called Online Learning) is a part of ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education). The SIGTel Online Learning Awards recognize international innovation.



FIRST PLACE in the [Taking IT Global collaborative project contest 2007](#)

The **Flat Classroom® Project** has also been:

- Included in Thomas Friedman's 3rd edition of **'The World is Flat'**, 2007 edition.
- Featured throughout ISTE publications, **'Reinventing Project Based Learning: Your field guide to real-world projects in the digital age'** by Suzie Boss and Jane Krauss and **'Global Education: Using Technology to bring the world to your students'**, by Laurence Peters
- Included in Don Tapscott's recent book, **'Grown Up Digital'**
- Featured in the book by **Curtis Bonk, 'The World is Open: How Web Technology is Revolutionizing Education'**

Flat Classroom® Conference and Workshops

Since the inaugural Flat Classroom Conference held in Qatar, January 2009, Flat Classroom workshops have been held in places including Hong Kong, Mumbai and the USA. The second global Flat Classroom Conference was held in Beijing, February 2011 under the umbrella of the non-profit organisation, Flat Classroom Conference and Live Events Inc.. These events bring students and educators from around the world to work on a project-based conference format where global problems are identified and solutions envisioned. Virtual and live participants join together to research and pitch solutions that include Web 2.0 tools for communication and collaboration and the development of multimedia products to share ideas, leading to sustained collaboration beyond the live event.

Associated projects and links

- Learn more about Flat Classroom Projects and Conferences through our portal at www.flatclassroomproject.net
- Flat Classroom Conference: www.flatclassroomconference.com

Join us on:

- Flat Classrooms Ning (for educators): flatclassrooms.ning.com

Correspondence (please contact us for more information about projects and hosting a live event): fcp@flatclassroom.org

Follow us on twitter: @flatclassroom @digiteen @netgened #flatclass

Directors and Co-founders: Julie Lindsay learningconfluence.com, Vicki Davis coolcatteacher.com

"We are building bridges between students that our future can walk across"