



January - February 2020

Online Innovation Skill-Building Experience

Event Summary



The Problem: There are many pros to face-to-face events, but eXtension members often face barriers that limit their participation.

Our Innovation: For 2020, the Impact Collaborative has moved its events to a virtual format to make it more accessible to its members. This learning series was facilitated by Molly Immendorf and Annie Jones from the eXtension Foundation and delivered for 90 minutes a week for four consecutive weeks over Zoom conferencing and through Engage & Empower Online. Series description available [here](#).

Unlike a traditional face-to-face Innovation Skill-Building Experience, we welcomed participation by both individuals looking for professional development and teams interested in learning and using the ISBE process curriculum to advance a project/program idea to address a local community issue. To accommodate this, all activities within the synchronous Zoom sessions were individual participant-based, utilizing the Breakout Room and Chat features. The facilitators introduced homework activities and strongly suggested that teams meet outside of the sessions to discuss ideas and produce a common team response to the activity outputs (Canvas, Zen Statement, Why Statement, etc.) Additionally, updates to the curriculum (updated Canvas, new Impacts worksheet, new Validation worksheet, and updated Choose Your Adventure idea selection criteria) were used for this transitional online ISBE.

What Worked:

100% of survey respondents would or may recommend the virtual Innovation Skill-Building Experience to others (81% Yes, 19% Maybe)

100% of survey respondents got what they needed through the ISBE.

90% of survey respondents noted the online format and the facilitators as aspects they liked about the ISBE.

72% of survey respondents noted the content as a positive aspect of the online ISBE.

54% of survey respondents noted the ISBE length positively.

What We Learned:

What was your biggest takeaway from the ISBE? *Sample Responses*

- I Like the design thinking strategy

- Replication of Materials
- That you can't just have a great idea and go do it, you need to get input and feedback and keep revising
- Love the canvas and other tools

63% of survey respondents found the ISBE pace to be challenging.

What suggestions do you have to improve future ISBE virtual experiences? *Sample Responses*

- Could condense it a few weeks - maybe have two sessions a week
- I feel there was a lot of material to go through in limited time. It would be beneficial to spend some time diving deeper into some of the tools/strategies and how to use them.

Many of the curriculum updates, pacing, and Zoom features were used in the February 2020 Impact Collaborative Innovation Facilitator online training as a direct result of the success of this pilot experience.

Next Opportunities:

We will continue to offer additional online ISBEs in 2020. We plan to shorten the duration, likely still 4 sessions with a shorter time in between sessions. Another plan is to provide more asynchronous "flipped classroom" resources to help participants engage with the curriculum and each other.