From David to Goliath: Past, Present, and Future of the Foundation

I have witnessed the greatest growth in the history of our organization, from a local journal to a national presence, over the past four years. It has been an honour to be a part of this transformation. I am constantly humbled by the enthusiasm, talent, and passion of students involved with the Foundation for Student Science and Technology.

Today, the Foundation provides multiple platforms to develop the career potential of students. The Journal remains our cornerstone and longest standing tradition. However, we constantly strive for innovation with novel sections such as Teaching Resources and InSights. The online Research Co-op has evolved into a unique opportunity for high school students to engage in research. The Program has gone from pilot to province-wide in just three short years. To date, more than 180 students across Ontario have worked with over 100 science mentors on fascinating topics ranging from genomics to cryptography, computer science to quantum physics, and psychosocial oncology to indigenous health history. The Ambassador program complements these opportunities by promoting them broadly across Canada. The Foundation is a platform for students to help other students, collectively providing experiences that help to launch careers.

Our organization puts students in leadership positions where they can affect positive change. My volunteer work has helped me discover a passion for innovation in education, so much so that I hope to integrate this interest into my future career as a physician. Students in the Foundation spearhead our organization’s every accomplishment, from developing curricula used across Ontario to broadening the audience of our journal to the international level.

In a few short years, the Foundation has evolved into a nationwide force promoting student potential and education. We have an even brighter future ahead and more importantly, so do the students across Canada who we serve.

Sincerely,

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Brandon is a medical student at the University of Toronto with a background in basic science research and extensive experience developing educational programs at local, provincial, and national levels. He majored in Biology and Psychology at McMaster University where he graduated first in his class. By taking graduate level courses in systems leadership during medical school, Brandon hopes to gain new perspective on the healthcare system. He has been involved with the Foundation for the past four years and is currently the Section Editor of the novel Teaching Resources section of JSST. He aspires to unite his passions for teaching, education, and medicine through a career as a physician educator.