

e:revna

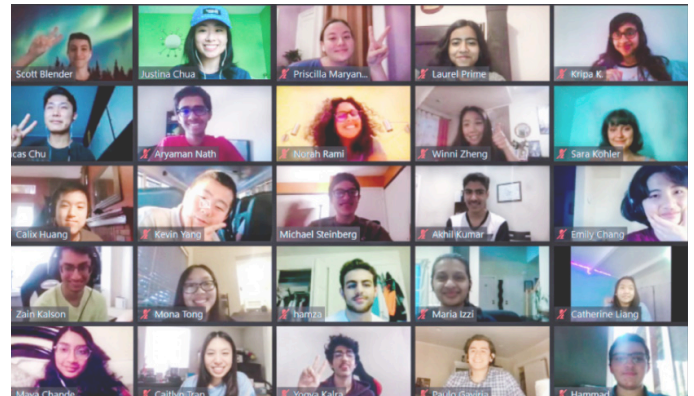


Beyond the Classroom:
Impact Report

Who We Are

Erevna is a 501(c)(3), student-led organization inspiring students to do more. Our multinational, intercollegiate organization operates 100% remotely. From panels for educational discussions and public policy writing, to startup communities and data science research projects — Erevna is extremely interdisciplinary across all eight initiatives of ours.

“Erevna,” which is Greek for “research,” is dedicated to platforming student-led projects that challenge the educational status-quo, and encourage students to co-organize events and projects via community service.



Caption: Members from Erevna's Coronavirus Visualization Team (CVT), ca. July 2020

Our Mission

Standardized testing and textbook-based curricula are the pillars of a typical education system. The main goal of these pillars is to provide students with a sense of college- and career-readiness.

However, when student achievement correlates to the type of funds the school can access, when funding dictates institutional instruction, and when students aim to optimize the quantity of their grades and not the quality of their learning experiences, that main goal becomes easily convoluted.

Some of the by-products of learning only how to excel in grades include a gap in: connection, understanding, and trust between students and educational administration, and vice versa.



Caption: High school participants, organizers, and mentors attending a student conference made possible by Erevna's Policy for the People initiative, December 2020.



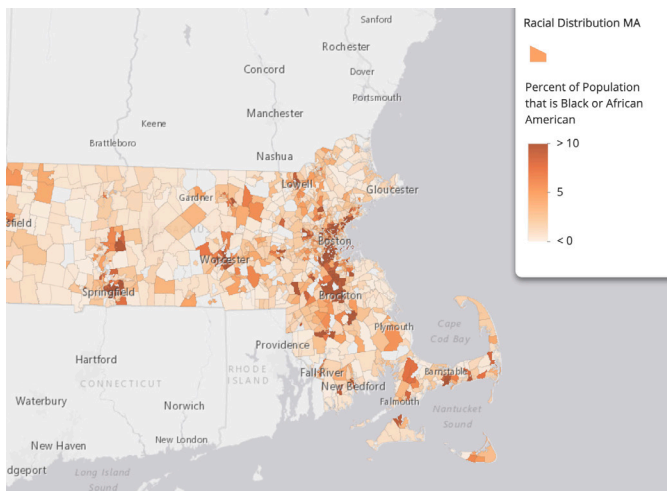
Our Mission

At Erevna, we believe that “learning by doing” is the missing pillar in today’s education system. What makes Erevna different is that we provide our student members with the flexibility and educational resources to mobilize virtually any project they desire — all while joining a supportive community of fellow student leaders. As a result, the notion, “You get what you give,” is true through and through with Erevna’s projects, in which students have the opportunity to choose which projects they’d like to experiment and contribute to, and how. This free-form structure allows students to explore independent research and build skillsets that they would’ve never learned in a standardized, classroom setting.

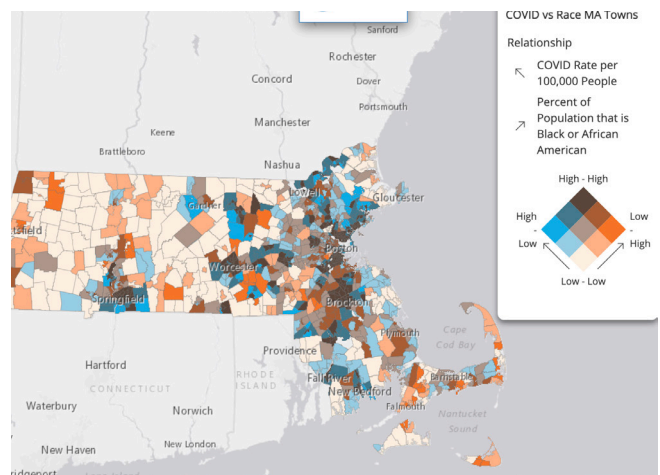
From project management to community engagement, clerical/administrative upkeep and digital marketing, to programming and data-collecting, students at Erevna “learn to learn” in a proactive way that works best for them, outside the confines of classroom expectations.

Especially with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in which there is a hyperfocus on mid-pandemic grades and pre-pandemic extracurricular accomplishments, students are especially under-prepared to find meaningful learning experiences in a postsecondary education, and/or in the workforce.

Founded during the initial rise of the COVID-19 cases and fatalities in the United States, the Coronavirus Visualization Team (CVT) was a project that developed alongside the progression of an unprecedented, public health emergency. CVT is documenting that progression through data visualizations and data science research projects. That said, Erevna aims to provide remote, project-based, experiential learning opportunities for all students.



Caption (1/2): The Coronavirus Visualization Team’s “COVID and Climate” project’s data visualization indicates where Black and African American individuals predominantly reside in Massachusetts state, ca. April 2020.



Caption (2/2): The “COVID and Climate” project’s data visualization on infection rate per 100,000 cases vs. race, in cross-reference to the racial distribution map seen on left, ca. April 2020.

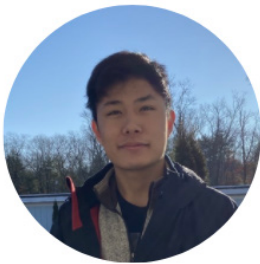


The Story of Our Structure

When founding the Coronavirus Visualization Team (CVT) in April of 2020, CEO and Founder Lucas Chu of Harvard College had intentions of creating a community-oriented organization of student leaders during the worst pandemic in more than 100 years.

Trailblazing the structure that would soon be adopted, Lucas proposed and led the transition of developing an umbrella organization structure. In October of 2020, said umbrella organization, Erevna, was officially established, so as to upscale and support various, different initiatives started by CVT members.

Our Board of Directors



Lucas Chu,
CEO & Founder



Marco Antonio,
President



Sonny Patel,
Advisory Board
Member



Justina Chua,
Advisory Board
Co-Chair



Scott Blender,
COO



Serene Feng,
Vice President



Thara Pillai,
Vice President



Laurel Prime,
Advisory Board
Co-Chair



Zia Baig,
CFO



Winni Zheng,
Secretary



Coronavirus Visualization Team

About CVT

The Coronavirus Visualization Team (CVT) is an initiative under Erevna that focuses on data science research projects in relation to COVID-19, as well as how to best present this data in plain, digestible language.

From coordinating with public officials on the distribution of PPE in urban neighborhoods most at-risk for infection, to showcasing data visualizations and members' project milestones on local news platforms, CVT is continuing to document the world's road to recovery through comprehensive data visualizations.

Initiative Highlights

- ➔ 200+ active members across various projects
- ➔ Coordinated the donation of 350k+ articles of PPE through Supply Crate
- ➔ Featured on NBC29 on our EPA Fact-Checking project
- ➔ Created visualizations to inform NYC Borough Presidents and helped coordinate \$600k in PPE donations
- ➔ Presented research to government leaders from the United Nations, European Union, and African Union



TOP STORY

Albemarle High School senior helping to collect COVID-19 data



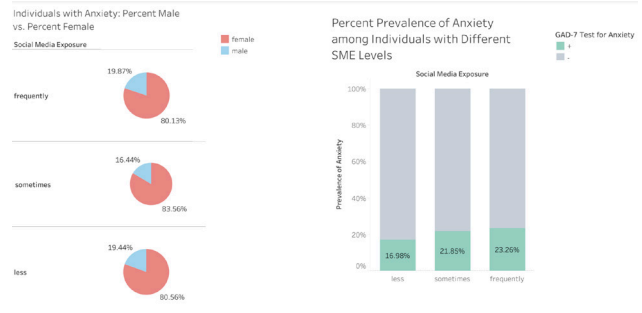
Caption: CVT member Emily Chang featured for her work in the “Fact-Checking the EPA” project, in which she addresses the informational overload of online COVID-19 data. Through her mentor-advised work, Emily is aiming to make COVID-19 information more easily comprehensible for the general public to read, July 2020.

High school student creates medical supply donation website

LOCAL 29
Tuesday, April 21, 2020



Caption: CVT member Jackie Ni featured for his work as founder of Supply Crate, a “platform connecting people willing to donate medical supplies with institutions in need of them,” April 2020.



Caption: The “Mental Health” project’s data visualization on anxiety levels during quarantine, anxiety levels categorized by biological sex and amount of social media exposure, ca. June 2020.



The following three initiatives, ending in “the People,” are particularly dedicated to democratizing and crowdsourcing the process of synthesizing solutions, with respect to each initiative’s unique foci. This is done by holding virtual, free events that are open to all student audiences of high school-level and beyond.

Panel to the People

About Panel to the People

Panel to the People (PTTP) is working to hold a space for complex topics to actually be addressed by seasoned experts.

It is through webinar-styled, roundtable discussions, open to the general public to tune in to, that Panel to the People believes that discussions lead to solutions, in which discussing traditionally-overlooked problems as a group (e.g. systemic racism and prejudice in the education system, climate change during COVID-19) is a crucial first step in the right direction.

Initiative Highlights

- ➔ Previously featured speakers include: Grant Sanderson, mathematics content creator with over 100 million views, Avi Schiffmann, informed over 1.5 billion people with COVID-19 statistics, and Dr. Francesca Dominici, ranked in the top 1% of cited scientists in her field and covered by CNN, BBC, NPR, and the New York Times



Caption: Panel to the People’s very first webinar, which focused on a breakdown of the economic consequences of a continually-progressing global health pandemic, July 2020.

Panel to the People

The Future of Schooling

COVID & Education
Join a conversation about COVID’s impact on education, how varying student demographics are affected, & what we can do to mitigate these effects in our school systems.


Moderated by Sophia Sobko

Sept. 26
at 3 pm EST


Register at lu.ma/7s470mmv

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PANEL to the PEOPLE


Meet the Panelists




DAVID STERN is an Emeritus Professor of Education at UC Berkeley and a former Principal Investigator for the Career Academy Support Network.



GLORIA LADSON-BILLINGS is the former Kellner Family Distinguished Professor of Urban Education and has examined Critical Race Theory within education.



Dr. BARBARA BLACKBURN Ph.D. is a Top 30 Global Guru in Education and an international speaker.



BARUTI KAFELE is a highly decorated urban public school educator, having received more than 150 awards.

Caption: One of Panel to the People’s most recent webinars, which focused on real educators’ thoughts on the education system and how it can be improved particularly for under-privileged students, students of color, and students with disabilities, September 2020.



Hack for the People

About Hack for the People

Hack for the People (HFTP) assembles annually to organize its intercollegiate, weekend-long hackathon.

Hack for the People allows students to build teams, program technological solutions for humanitarian-based issues, interact with representatives from our partnered collaborators (e.g. Google Cloud, Hack+, the IO Foundation, FLIK), as well as network and connect with teammates mid- and post-event.

Initiative Highlights

- 700+ hackers at our first event and \$20,000 in prizes
- Solutions engineered based on economic, political, sociocultural, and environmental issues
- Sponsored by 10+ different organizations



Caption: Hack for the People 2020 was a virtual hackathon promoting the intersectionality between technological solutions and present-day societal challenges, August 2020.

Policy for the People

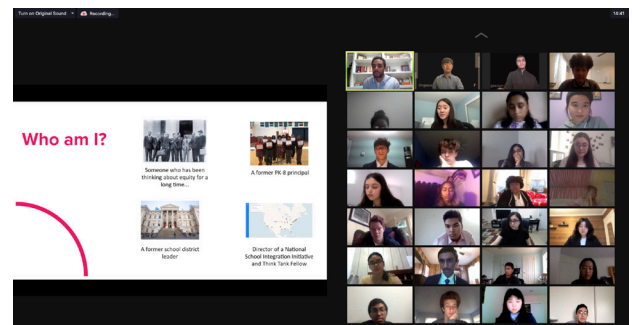
About Policy for the People

Policy for the People (PFTP) places emphasis on students learning to engage more with public policy through proposal writing and student competitions. Inspired by the program design of a “hackathon,” each weekend-long event hosted by Policy for the People provides participants with on-call mentors to help guide their policy writing process.

This is in efforts to allow any and all students to interact with public policy and civic engagement, and to challenge students to propose solutions that are independent of their prior experience, or lack thereof, in policy.

Initiative Highlights

- 1,100+ students reached across the Pandemic Policython and SIS Conference
- Backed by several organizations for the Pandemic Policython, such as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, The Heritage Foundation, and the World Health Organization (WHO)



Caption: Policy for the People’s second event, the Students Improving Schools (SIS) Conference, kickstarted with a roundtable discussion amongst Stefan Lallinger (The Century Foundation) and 100 high school attendees, 24 volunteers, and 6 on-call mentors. Student attendees broke out into close-knit workshops to discuss what they want to see change in their schooling systems, and would then work with mentors to compose their own policy proposals, based on workshop discussions, December 2020.



Hearing From Event Participants

Because Erevna values transparency, Policy for the People anonymously shares its participants' post-event feedback below, in which participants from both the Pandemic Policython and the Students Improving Schools Conference expressed finding value in group discussions before the proposal writing began. However, participants that have expressed feeling constrained by, or from, policy writing points Erevna in the direction of prioritizing collaborative brainstorming sessions, as opposed to organizing events jam-packed with various workshops.

“

My favorite part of the event was the opportunity to go into breakout rooms, learn more about the other participants, and have productive discussions about the issues that we'd like to see be resolved in our communities.

“

“

I loved that students from all over the world got to participate in the same event and we learned from each other.

“

“

I think the length of the policython was extensive and could be shortened in the future.

“

“

The time frame we had to draft our policy problem, theory, and assessing our success was fairly short. I believe it was only 15 minutes, and as a result my team and I had to rush to finish [one of our] approach[es].

“

“

The [team] discussions were the best. You get to hear other people's point of view and it really makes you think about topics you're never thought before.

“



The Educational Nonprofit Coalition

About ENC

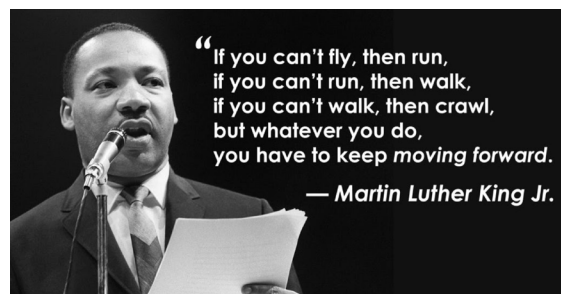
The Educational Nonprofit Coalition (ENC) believes in the power of crowdsourcing resources, opportunities, and events for students. The ENC works with advisors experienced in helping nonprofits grow their team, develop personalized programs, and share open-sourced content.

On January 18th, 2021, the ENC teamed up with members of CVT to host the MLK Jr. Day Tutorthon. In particular, high school tutees whom identify as BIPOC and/or are based in low-income, or otherwise under-privileged, communities were encouraged to participate in Tutorthon. Tutorthon allowed tutees to learn from, and network with, undergraduate tutors — many of which came from similar identities or backgrounds as their tutees.

Alongside creating a space for high school students to relate to, and learn from, student volunteers, Tutorthon was also in efforts to fight student food insecurity, a prevalent issue amongst school districts of predominantly low-income populations and marginalized communities. All proceeds fundraised during, and after Tutorthon, are to go to the U.S. hunger relief organization, Feeding America.

Initiative Highlights

- Established a network of 15 fellow student organizations that share resources and educational insights
- Remotely fundraised \$235 for Feeding America in 6 days

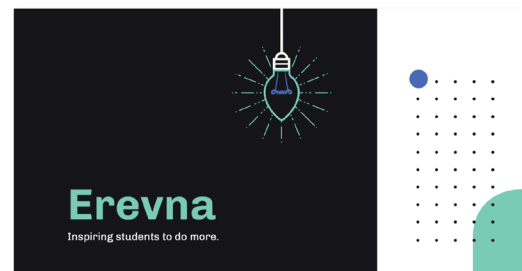


Caption: A blurb from MLK Jr.'s "Keep Moving Forward" address of 1960 was presented at the beginning of Tutorthon's opening remarks, an event that was made possible by ENC x CVT efforts, January 2021.

Givebuttr

Fighting Student Food Insecurity

Help us organize student-led change



\$235 10 supporters



Caption: Erevna's community campaign page focused on fighting student food insecurity. "Especially during a COVID-19 pandemic, students should not have to worry about their Zoom malfunctioning alongside whether to give up lunch today or tomorrow."



The following two initiatives are non-competitive communities open to the general student audience to join at any time.

Coronavirus Visualization Community

About CVC

While CVT has an application process, the Coronavirus Visualization Community (CVC) was soon created in order to make data science research projects open-sourced and more accessible to a wider range of students.

CVC is the hub for student leaders, both in and outside of Erevna, to freely join teams, experiment with visualization, and connect with others — without being restricted by the deadlines associated with typical project development. One of the largest projects initiated under CVC is Project India, a collaborative project aiming to monitor and visualize the road to recovery for the second most-populous country in the world.



Intercollegiate Discord

About the Intercollegiate Discord

In addition to CVC, Erevna's Intercollegiate Discord is an online community of students, both in and outside of Erevna, that are developing camaraderie with fellow undergraduates from all types of majors.

The Intercollegiate Discord is a catchall for virtual social events, tutoring/study sessions, book club get-togethers, and peer networking meetings. The Intercollegiate Discord also served as the “virtual venue” for Hack for the People 2020, as well as the MLK Jr. Day Tutorthon.



**Intercollegiate
Discord**

Initiative Highlights

- 4,000+ students reached through CVC and the Intercollegiate Discord, combined



Alphastart

About Alphastart

Alphastart is one of the newest initiatives developing under Erevna. Originally established as “F(o)und,” this initiative has been retitled to “Alphastart,” alongside other rebranding strategies that are currently underway, in order to better convey its forward-looking, innovation-centric mission.

In efforts to build experiences with collaboration, competition, and real-time learning in the consumer products market, Alphastart is curating a community of entrepreneurs, startup founders, students looking to expand upon their technological solutions (i.e., MVPs) post-hackathon, and those interested in pursuing paths of similarity.

Similar to “the People” initiatives within Erevna, Alphastart is working to democratize its program design by surveying Erevna members, and our affiliated student-led organizations. Unlike many startup incubators, Alphastart is directly implementing its community’s popular demands to further develop its upcoming program(s).

Alphastart

Our Next Steps

Demographically, student volunteers at Erevna are predominantly a college-bound population, if not already attending a college/university. We are tackling this first by surveying current members of Erevna, so as to better understand how we can reach a more representative, diverse student body, as well as provide more students with our remote opportunities.

In addition, Erevna sees an opportunity to improve its event and project management workflows, which currently operate ad hoc. This would be in efforts to create a more even distribution of student volunteers throughout various task forces under a given initiative, relative to the needs of said initiative. This is as opposed to having a handful of student volunteers spearheading several, various events and projects simultaneously and/or consecutively, in which such a program design is prone to organizational, structural oversight. We are tackling this by deliberating and planning together at our monthly roundtable meetings to address opportunities for our organization to improve, open to all student members of Erevna.

Lastly, Erevna looks to develop outreach campaigns, so as to extend our partnerships to include collegiate data science clubs, civic engagement groups, and other nonprofits. We are tackling this by connecting with relevant departments of our student members’ colleges/universities for event collaboration. With each event/project, we aim to extend our program design model outside Erevna, as well as to gradually build and fortify collaboration with current clubs and education systems. This is in efforts to help bring the missing pillar of project-based learning into the classroom setting.



To our organizational partners, co-sponsors, supporters, and event collaborators, thank you.

Support Network

Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis
Harvard Data Science Initiative
Harvard Innovation Labs
Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics
The American Academy of Arts and Sciences
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SimplyNeuroscience
FairVote
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Students Vs. Pandemic
MIT COVID-19 Challenge | Africa Takes On COVID-19
Mission Magazine
Harvard Undegraduates for Bipartisan Solutions



If you would like to provide feedback on this report, please contact us at CVT's organizational email: info@understandcovid.org.

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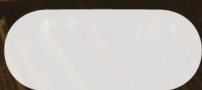
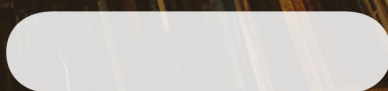
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e:revna



Inspiring students
beyond the classroom