

CESAR GUILLEN

**“NEW GENERATION OF THINKERS AND LEADERS”**

**Provide a free, interactive, and hands-on learning online educational platform for  
High school students in Merida, Venezuela. Located in Mérida, Venezuela**

*To be executed, July 1st - August 20th, 2022*



A new generation of  
thinkers and leaders

CONOCIMIENTO UNIVERSAL

**Mission:** Bring a project-based experience to public and private high school students, which will enable them to access a high-quality education aiming at curiosity, understanding, and practice of science concepts. Incentive the new generation of thinkers and leaders.

**Background:** As you may know, the Venezuelan people are currently suffering the consequences of an authoritarian regime constantly abusing human rights and creating fatal conditions for all citizens. Moreover, the educational system has been one of the most affected during the last years in all the social sectors. For me personally, it was very challenging to finish high school because the professors were not paid, or were not allowed to mobilize to the school due to political circumstances. Moreover, today that the pandemic has gravitated the conditions for all students in Venezuela; many schools have been shut down because the government is no longer funding the educational system, and even the private institutions have not been able to continue working because they are not prepared to face the remote teaching model. Moreover, thousands of students have not been able to continue their studies, and some are currently focusing their time and energy to fulfill other necessities such as food and money for living in a challenging reality.

Furthermore, I find myself in the duty to provide an educational platform for those who are seeking a better future, enabling students to acquire an education that will prepare them for professional development and higher education, but also social consciousness. I personally see a lot of future in the Venezuelan people, they are a hardworking society in which ignorance has been the greatest threat that has enabled the current circumstances. As a WPI student, I am committed to working on a GAME-CHANGER for the Educational System in Venezuela. A platform that will allow and guide students to develop their abilities and passions using the project-based system. I have been highly influenced by my GPS experience and project development to make a change now.

During the last months, I have been in contact with the high school students, and professors of several high schools in Merida, Venezuela, in which the program will be first launched, monitored, and improved. Moreover, I have also been in contact with faculty from the local university, the University of Los Andes (ULA); who are willing to participate in the development of the content, and possibly, future projects with the students. According to the official government website, university professors earn salaries between 2 or 3 dollars per month. Moreover, forcing the professors to leave the classrooms and find other ways of surviving. With this proposal, we will provide the

opportunity for the professors to work on the project and also provide guidance to the students who are seeking a better education. The project is focused on the development of the student, but also providing opportunities to the professors.

**Vision:** The project is designed to provide all students with high-quality educational content and projects that will allow them to grow their curiosity and passion for science and also provide the tools to develop a brighter future. The project will be designed to tackle math, science, history, computing, nutrition, economics; but also recreational and applicable subjects, such as career path, entrepreneurship, psychology of self-development, emotional intelligence, habits, relationships, and agricultural sciences.

### **Description of the project and involved subjects.**

- **Students targeted– High school students, from 6th grade to 13th grade.**
- **Schools that will be involved**
  - Colegio La Salle Merida
  - Unidad Educativa Colegio “La Presentación– Mérida”
  - U.E. Colegio Nuestra Señora de Fátima
  - Liceo Libertador, Merida Venezuela
  - Seminario Menor"San Buenaventura" de Merida
  - Universidad de Los Andes, Venezuela
- **Mentors** - Science teachers in the primary schools, Professors in the Universidad de Los Andes (ULA), Professors in Worcester Polytechnic Institute(WPI).
- **Project team members** - Cesar Guillen, working with university students, universitarian Professors, programming team.
- **The layout of the program during the project.**
  - For the first week, I will be meeting with the team members to train them and establish the agenda, tasks, and responsibilities for the projects.
  - Meeting with local authorities, the authorities of each school, and the Professors from the University.
  - For the second week, I will be meeting with the mentors to assign the respective subjects and responsibilities. Moreover starting to design the framework of the project and the content for each subject to be developed.
  - Additionally, meeting with the tech team that will be developing the online platform.
  - Organize events in each school to test the approach of the platform in order to make it adequate, engaging, and stimulating for student use.

- We will host daily meetings with the mentors to work on the design of the content and also the projects.
- The platform will be designed to provide the content of each subject in a way that will be interactive and engaging for the student to study and learn by themselves according to their rhythm. Furthermore, providing the respective project for the section.
- The project for each section will be designed in a way that the student will have to master the course and apply to solve or aim to solve daily life problems. These projects would be guided by the instructor, providing feedback. This dynamic is highly inspired by the GPS course offered at WPI.
- The content of each subject will be designed to be applicable. There will be projects that require the student to research and apply the received knowledge, in order to develop a project that might be useful for the school, local communities, or personal interests.
- Moreover, the platform will provide additional courses for the teachers that will be imparting the classes; so they will understand the dynamics and be prepared to guide the students.

### **Expected outcomes and prospects for future impact**

1. Bring inspiration to students, professors, and the Venezuelan society which is suffering the impacts of the current dictatorship and pandemic that have banned and negatively affected the educational system.
2. Provide a solution for the current educational paralysis in Venezuela due to the pandemic and the lack of governance.
3. Provide youths the opportunity to study, develop themselves, and highly contribute to the society and the industrialization of Venezuela. Incentivizing students, parents, and teachers to work and develop projects that can positively affect and improve their living conditions.
4. Improve the educational system, and teach students who are seeking guidance and a better future.
5. Prepare the future generations of Thinkers and Leaders with a project-based education program that will allow the population to evolve in their environment.
6. Incentive the wisdom, development of citizens of the world, passionate people, aware of the international circumstances and their capability to change the world improving the living condition of those who desperately need it.