

## Next Gen Tech 360 – Advice from InSite, 2018-2019 First Place Winners

Hello NGT 360 competitors! Matthew Werneken here, Project Manager of team InSite. I'm currently a freshman at Columbia University, and spent the past year working as the student intern for Next Gen Tech. I worked with the InSite team to bring you the best advice we've got for this season. Strap in for a wild ride; Next Gen Tech is going to be a journey you won't regret!

### **Who are you? What is InSite?**

InSite is a brainstorming and idea accountability tool developed over 7 months of Next Gen Tech mentorship and preparation. Our team of 4 took full advantage of the resources NGT 360 offered, constantly connecting with new mentors, attending tech conferences (including many virtual workshops) in Tampa, and improving our own skillsets to bring the judges a working product at the end of the day. We're passionate about sharing the knowledge we have gained over the past year and excited to document our thoughts to help you grow.

### **Why join Next Gen Tech?**

You've read this far. Chances are that you're a student looking for opportunity, and you've come to the right place. Next Gen Tech attracts successful students because it promotes the qualities that are needed to "get somewhere" in today's competitive world. It isn't about grant money or college applications – in the end, these are both mediums for achieving the success that NGT 360 promotes reaching *now*. You aren't too young to take your ideas to the stage, but to get in front of the crowd you need connections and experience. This is your chance to connect with *phenomenal* mentors from every tech/business industry in Tampa Bay and push your adaptability to its limits. These are opportunities every student in the world should have the chance to jump at, but right now only a select few (that's you!) do. Don't pass it up!

### **The Application**

Alright, so you're in! I can't wait to connect with you and see your idea grow. Find me or the incoming NGT intern, Alex Kranias, at workshops and say hi! There are plenty of student alumni and experienced mentors at every NGT 360 event; ask us questions!

It's important to note that *every* product will diverge from your initial ideas over the course of your innovation. When the InSite team looked back at our initial application at the end of the program, we had submitted an *entirely different* problem AND solution to start our journey. The fantastic people behind the scenes of NGT 360 aren't looking for an application to reject. They're looking for your passion to show through your ideas. Nobody will be denied based on their idea or their application – it's to get you to start thinking and innovating now! Don't make

the application a barrier, but an enjoyable challenge to start your life-changing experience in Next Gen Tech!

**How will a virtual season be different? Will there really be the same resources?**

This year's season is going to be online, but I honestly believe that will bring even more value to the program. There are obstacles to creating an engaging 7 months through online formats, but months have gone into planning and preparation to make this year of NGT 360 worthwhile. All of the same amazing mentors, prizes, and learning will be at your fingertips even from home. In addition, tools like Gnowbe—the new micro-learning mobile platform that NGT 360 is partnering with for workshops and content storage—are going to make the online environment easy to navigate and receive the help you need. It's going to be Next Gen Tech's best year yet, trust me!

See you at Workshop 1,

-- Matthew Werneken, InSite Project Manager

