

Feature Story

Feature Story: IES SBIR Tech-Expo Showcases New Education Learning Products

The [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\)](#) program within ED's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) provides funding to firms and partners for the research, development, and evaluation of commercially viable education technology products, including interventions, tools, and games, to support student learning or other relevant outcomes, or to support teacher practices.

In September, IES SBIR hosted its first-ever Tech Expo in the LBJ Barnard Auditorium and at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. During the expo, 20 current IES SBIR awardees displayed a functioning prototype of their education technology product and provided a summary of their research to date. More than 100 individuals attended the event, including ED and IES staff, federal staff from the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the State Department, the General Services Agency, the Department of Defense, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Also attending were a number of IES-funded researchers. At right, Nadya Dabby from ED's Office of Innovation and Improvement demos "Mission US" with David Langendoen of Electric Funstuff (right) while Mark DeLoura from OSTP and another attendee demo "Reach for the Sun" with Dan White of Filament Games (left).



Expo attendees were able to try out the prototypes and meet the developers. Products showcased included technology-based interventions, tools, and learning games for users in regular or special education settings across a variety of topics, including math, science, history, reading, writing, phonics, and in the area of social and behavioral development.

During the Tech Expo on Sept. 25, the webcast of the [NBC Innovation Challenge at Education Nation](#) was streamed live from New York on the big screen in LBJ's Barnard Auditorium. The



Innovation Challenge is a contest spotlighting early-stage education technology entrepreneurs, all of whom are hoping to start the next big innovation for expanding student opportunities. The broadcast included an interview featuring IES SBIR awardee and [Teachley](#) cofounder Rachael Labrecque (pictured at left), while colleagues Kara Carpenter and Dana Pager and expo attendees watched from LBJ. Teachley finished as the runner up in the competition. You can watch interesting videos from the competition at [Final Pitch](#) and [Challenges # 1 - 5](#).

Teachley, as part of [2010 Phase I and 2011 Phase II awards](#) from IES SBIR, is developing a series of apps for touchscreen tablet computers to support math learning for first- to fourth- grade students with learning difficulties. You can view a video demo of this product [here](#).

If you are interested in knowing more about the products, check out the short four-minute video demonstrations of all of the products (and more), which are posted on the IES SBIR video page [at this link](#).

With questions, or for more information about the IES SBIR program, please contact Ed Metz at Edward.Metz@ed.gov.

--Edward Metz, IES



At left, Robert Brown (right) and Scott Brewster (left) from Triad Interactive Media demo "Platinu Math" with IES-funded researcher Greg Chung.

At right, a conference attendee demos "Zoo U" with Melissa DeRosier of the 3C Institute.





At left, event attendees meet with developers.

At right, Ed Metz from IES meets with Marjorie Darrah of the Information Research Corporation to try out “etouch Science.”

