



UGA Innovation Skill-Building Experience, December 2018

Results at a Glance

The Impact Collaborative offers members a statewide or institution-wide Innovation Skill-Building experience locally each year. Since 2017, the Impact Collaborative has held 13 of these events. Prior to the event, we work with leadership teams to understand their goals and what is needed to help with program impact. During these events, we work with members in three areas:

1. Building skills in innovation,
2. Ideating with project and program teams using our design thinking and lean experimentation methodology focused on their local goals and priorities, and
3. Creating initial action plans for projects and programs ready for implementation

To host one of these events in your state or at your institution, member Directors and Administrators need to contact [Chris Geith](#) for an initial discussion in order for us to align effectively with your strategic priorities. Once we are in alignment to move forward, we will coordinate a date with you.

Purpose of the University of Georgia (UGA) event:

To help build a culture of creativity and innovation to increase employee engagement. To learn that it is ok to be bold, try and fail as long as you learn from the experience.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

- **In attendance:**
 - 57 participants from 10 teams
 - 3 Innovation Facilitators
 - 3 eXtension Staff
- **Intended Outcomes**

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- **Participants will learn the Impact Collaborative Innovation Kit process applied to their new/existing statewide team’s project/program idea(s).**
 - 91% of survey respondents were satisfied with the Innovation Skill Building Experience.
- **Team members will have new tools to use in their work to promote innovative and creative thinking.**
 - 90% of respondents indicated they could apply the IC Innovation Kit process to their work.
- **Participants will become innovation leaders for UGA.**
 - 62% would recommend the Innovation Skill Building Experience to others.
 - 53% would like to attend future Impact Collaborative events when available.
- **Teams will have a next steps plan for their idea(s).**
 - Ten creative and innovation external and internal project/program ideas were developed by the teams from inception to the “pitch.”
 - All teams are supported by UGA administration to move forward with continuing their work. For example, all teams were assigned an administrative advisor and together with eXtension will meet quarterly to continue progress.
- **Team Outputs**
 - Sample team summaries are below:
 - *The Mighty Tortoise*: An eat better, live better social media campaign for low-income families that promotes and educates enabling them to eat well, be active and thrive unlike other media influencers that promote unsustainable and inaccurate nutrition health habits.
 - *Health Hero Team*: A reflective guide for new and existing well connected communities that illustrates the process and possible steps/potential projects that enable communities to create a culture of health through unlike current community wellness initiatives.
- **Feedback from Extension Director, Dr. Laura Perry Johnson**
 - One of UGA Extension’s strategic goals is to give employees the time and space to explore innovative ideas and new ways to do things. The Impact Collaborative Innovation Skill-Building Experience in our state allowed us to do just that with 10 of our existing issue teams. They dedicated two full days to moving their issue or project forward. eXtension is also helping to support these teams and their efforts with quarterly “accountability” calls to be sure we stay on track.