

build4good

INTERN PROJECT PROFILES

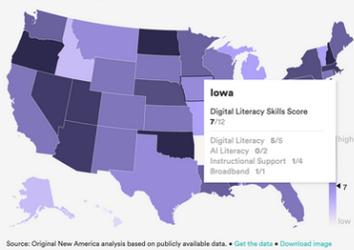


What can a build4good intern do?

Since 2020, build4good has matched diverse cohorts of post-secondary students with host organizations that utilize students' skills in computer science, data science, design, and related fields. Students have worked on projects related to website design, data analytics, app design and development, back-end development, data visualizations including interactive web maps, expanding online engagement, and addressing privacy and security challenges.

Figure 1 | Digital Literacy Skills by State

Overall digital literacy skills scores are derived from sub-scores in: digital literacy, AI literacy, instructional support, and broadband access.



Source: Original New America analysis based on publicly available data. [Get the data](#) [Download image](#)

PROJECT PROFILE:

Mapping Digital Literacy Skills at New America

CHALLENGE: Digital literacy resources, initiatives, and standards vary widely across states, but this information isn't centralized or mapped comprehensively.

JULIA'S PROJECT: Julia Healey-Parera conducted a 50-state scan and organized findings into four domains: digital literacy frameworks, AI literacy frameworks, instructional support, and broadband access. These domains were combined into a single Digital Literacy Skills Score Map, visible in [New America's brief on Digital Literacy in the Age of AI](#).



OregonASK
Afterschool & Summer for Kids Network

PROJECT PROFILE:

Building an Assessment App at OregonASK

CHALLENGE: Afterschool organizations needed a simple way to assess themselves, clearly understand their results, and receive meaningful, actionable next steps—all without requiring technical expertise.

NAT'S PROJECT: Nat Howard built INSIGHT, a web-app that lets afterschool organizations complete OregonASK's updated 2025 Standards and Competencies self-assessment. The tool shows results in easy-to-read formats and provides recommendations so organizations know exactly how to improve.

Youth Development and Engagement



PROJECT PROFILE:

Developing an API for Digital Promise

CHALLENGE: Digital Promise wanted company partners to easily access its learner variability research, but the information was stored across internal systems without a centralized, developer-friendly way to retrieve it. This made it difficult for partners to integrate the research into their own tools and products.

MITHUN'S PROJECT: Mithun Balasubramanian developed an API that provides structured, reliable access to Digital Promise's learner variability research content. The API streamlines data retrieval for partners, enabling seamless integration of these resources into external platforms and supporting wider use of Digital Promise's research.



To learn more and contact build4good, visit build4good.tech





LEARNING WITH BUILD4GOOD:
What can students and host organizations gain from this program?

- Students pursuing technology-related degrees are often unaware of opportunities to apply their skills in the nonprofit sector. Public interest technology summer internships can illuminate this work for students and pave the way for an expanded talent pipeline of technologists working to advance the public good.
- Host organizations gain the opportunity to partner with talented interns who bring the technical and design skills needed to actualize mission-driven projects. Whether developing new tools, refining digital strategies, or advancing other initiatives, interns can help organizations better understand what's possible, offering fresh perspectives and revealing new project opportunities through their skills and technical approach.

NEXT STEPS:
build4good invites prospective hosts and interns to get involved in its work:

- Nonprofit organizations interested in hosting a build4good intern can fill out a brief [interest form](#) and the build4good team will reach out to schedule a call for a meet-and-greet, and to brainstorm potential projects. In addition, those interested may also consult [build4good's manual](#) for interns and hosting organizations.
- University students majoring in computing-related fields can apply for a 2026 summer internship by completing our [application](#) or visit [New America's Internship Experience page](#) to learn more.

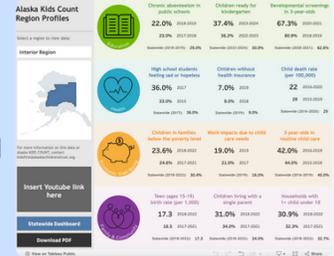


PROJECT PROFILE:
Creating a Data Dashboard at Alaska Children's Trust

CHALLENGE: ACT publishes annual Kids Count data, but it was presented in static PDFs that were difficult to update, hard to navigate, and not easily accessible. ACT needed an interactive, easy-to-maintain dashboard that could present statewide and regional data clearly, support user-friendly exploration, and be manageable for staff with limited technical experience.



SONIA'S PROJECT: Sonia Mar developed an interactive regional dashboard in Tableau—including a clickable map, clear visual hierarchy, and accessibility-focused design—and later expanded it into a statewide dashboard using a consistent layout. Sonia organized and prepared the Kids Count dataset, conducted market research, and consulted with other states' dashboard developers to inform best practices.



PROJECT PROFILE:
Automating Accent Grouping at Mozilla's Common Voice Project

CHALLENGE: Common Voice gathers speech data from many languages and contributors describe their accents in free-form text, making the information messy and inconsistent. Without a way to organize these descriptions into clear, standardized labels, researchers can't reliably use accent data in their work.



PAVAN'S PROJECT: Pavan Rauch designed a tagging system that represents each accent with clear, non-overlapping organization. He manually tagged the English and Catalan datasets to create a baseline and built an evaluation method to compare automatic tags against this baseline. Pavan built pipelines for clustering, normalization, and classification using Python and pre-trained language models.



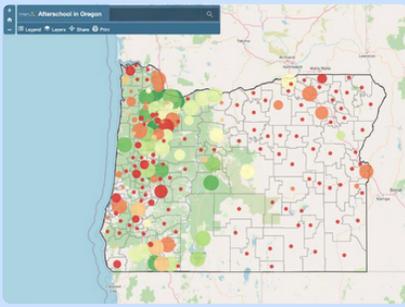
PROJECT PROFILE:
Tracking National Adult Education Trends with The Adult Literacy and Learning Impact Network

CHALLENGE: National and state-level adult education data and trends were scattered and difficult for policymakers, directors, and stakeholders to easily access or interpret.



GERALD'S PROJECT: Gerald Chimere Akwuole co-produced a comprehensive national [report](#) and a state-by-state adult education statistics spreadsheet to centralize information, highlight key issues, and provide actionable insights for public use.





PROJECT PROFILE:
Mapping Afterschool Programs at OregonASK

CHALLENGE: OregonASK needed a compelling way to advocate for quality afterschool programs using real, statewide data that policymakers and the public could easily understand.

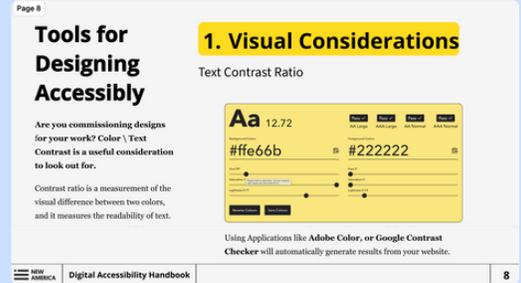
SARAH'S PROJECT: Sarah Suchmann applied her GIS expertise to create story maps that visually communicated the impact and need for afterschool programs across Oregon, strengthening advocacy efforts for OregonASK and other statewide networks.



PROJECT PROFILE:
Creating a Digital Accessibility Handbook for New America

CHALLENGE: New America lacked a clear, organization-wide guideline for creating accessible digital content and communications.

MILO'S PROJECT: Milo Soriano used human-centered design research to interview experts and stakeholders and create a digital accessibility handbook and checklist, now used across New America and shared with peer organizations.



PROJECT PROFILE:
Managing Data at the Alaska Afterschool Network

CHALLENGE: Alaska's afterschool program data was fragmented across systems, contained duplicates and outdated records, and was difficult to analyze, while the organization's website also needed improved accessibility and usability.

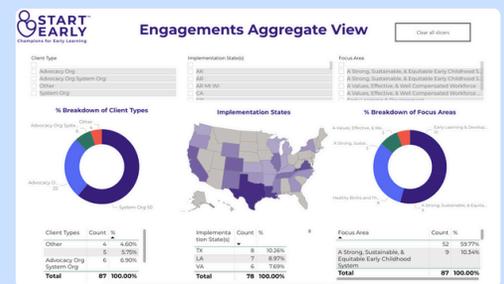
LEON'S PROJECT: Leon Belegu cleaned and centralized the Alaska Afterschool Network's database, automated data tracking with improved Google Sheets formulas, built Salesforce reports and a visual dashboard for key insights, and redesigned their website in Squarespace to make information more accessible and easier to manage for staff and the community.



PROJECT PROFILE:
Building a Dashboard for Start Early

CHALLENGE: Start Early's Consulting Team lacked a centralized, internal system to track and analyze portfolio, systems-level, and internal outcomes data for ongoing planning and decision-making.

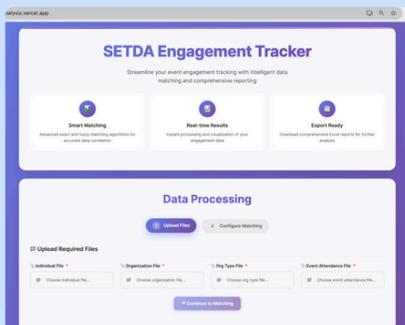
SOLUTION: Jolie Huang built an internal dashboard that aggregates and visualizes consulting data, providing a one-stop resource for key metrics. She also created a step-by-step manual to ensure the dashboard can be consistently updated and sustained over time.



PROJECT PROFILE:
Analyzing Data at the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)

CHALLENGE: SETDA had years of unused event participation data and lacked an accessible way to analyze member engagement or clearly communicate membership impact to staff and stakeholders.

SMRITI'S PROJECT: Smriti Rangarajan built a scalable data visualization platform that analyzes and integrates event data from multiple systems using Python, generates automated engagement reports, and includes an interactive national membership map to help SETDA understand active members and convey impact.



Interns building at Hackathons, Design Labs, and Beyond

In addition to the projects interns complete directly with their host organizations, build4good interns have opportunities to apply their skills across a range of collaborative projects during and after their summer internship. These experiences allow interns to work in interdisciplinary teams, explore new tools and ideas, and contribute to initiatives that extend beyond their primary placements while reinforcing build4good's mission of technology for social good.

During one week of the summer, interns convene in Washington, D.C. for the annual build4good Hackathon. At the hackathon, interns collaborate with fellow interns, educators, developers, designers, and data scientists to design and build early-stage prototypes. These projects focus on improving student learning, promoting accessible data use, and creating tools that support marginalized communities, including learners with disabilities. The hackathon emphasizes rapid problem-solving, user-centered design, and teamwork in a high-energy, supportive environment.

Beyond the build4good summer experience, interns also participate in Design Labs hosted by New America. These labs provide an opportunity to design and test prototypes that leverage open educational resources and practices (OER/P) as well as emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Through build4good's extensive alumni network, past interns continue to contribute to meaningful projects after their formal internships end. Many alumni collaborate on open-source initiatives, sharing their expertise and building tools that benefit the broader public.

HACKATHON: The 2024 OER and Accessibility AI Hackathon

Over two days, participants collaborated to create open-source edtech prototypes using open educational resources (OER) to better serve students with disabilities. The event aimed to explore AI's potential in making digital educational materials more accessible and adaptable, with teams developing innovative solutions such as voice-assisted technology and alt-text generators, while also fostering interest in public interest technology careers among college students.



Read more about the Hackathon [here](#).

“With the help and expertise of the interns, my voice contributed to creating a useful and necessary tool for visually impaired students and teachers.”



HACKATHON: The 2025 build4good Hackathon

At the 2025 build4good Hackathon, interns broke into groups to work on projects with mentors from Host Organizations [Mizzen Education](#) and [Digital Promise](#).

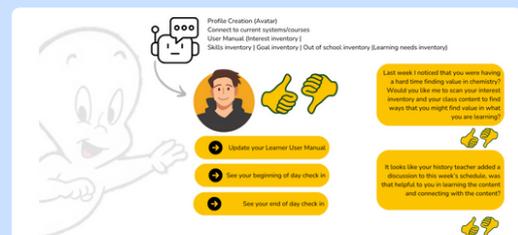
Among other projects, one team designed and built a web app that makes civic datasets more accessible by translating everyday language into database queries using Large Language Models (LLMs). Another team developed a web app that allows users to view, store, and share micro-credentials using the Digital Promise Badge Engine.

Read more about Mizzen's experience hosting build4good interns and participating in the Hackathon [here](#).

DESIGN LABS: The 2025 Education is a Public Good Design Lab

build4good alumni worked alongside other Design Lab participants to prototype tools focused on a variety of topics: curriculum and learning materials, teacher support and professional development, policies that support accountability beyond standardized benchmarks of performance, and research and development. build4good alumni Gerald Akwuole, Mithun Balasubramanian, and Riley Griem used the skills they developed over their internships to provide design teams with a perspective grounded in real student-centered experience and technical expertise.

Read more about the Design Lab [here](#).



An ed-tech prototype for user persona Casper. Source: Prototype design courtesy of Pati Ruiz, Rachel Phillips, Precious Foreman, Emily Markovich Morris, Jody Britten, Gerald Akwuole, and Chris Agnew

ALUMNI WORK: Building a Dashboard for the Data Rescue Project

In January 2025, New America joined the [Data Rescue Project](#) (DRP), an all-volunteer organization to help rescue at-risk federal data. Our build4good mentors and interns built an [open data portal](#) that centralizes datasets in a searchable, integrated hub. To date 1,230 datasets across 85 federal government offices compiled by over 500 volunteers have been rescued.

DRP is currently hard at work rescuing [National Center for Education Statistics](#) surveys and data that capture research on safety in schools, the state of public and private schooling across America, and long term longitudinal studies.

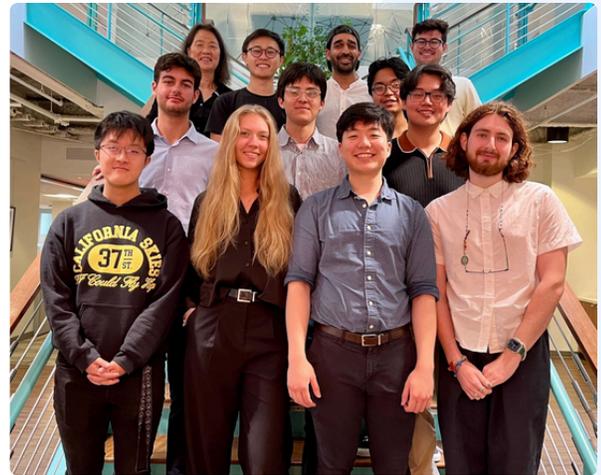
build4good alum Sonia Mar and Leon Belegu worked on the frontend of the site developing dynamic components, improving readability, and focusing on keeping the interface lightweight and intuitive so that contributors and users without a technical background could easily navigate and maintain the portal.

Read more about the Data Rescue Project in a [Q&A with founding member Lynda Kellam](#) or check out their work in [this New York Times piece](#) on data rescue initiatives.



“
I learned how central data science is to many governmental and social impact projects. I hadn't considered developing my data science skills before build4good, but now I am planning to take classes on it in my final year of undergrad.”

“
Our intern was was proactive, technically strong, and full of great ideas. She contributed tools we've implemented, and when project needs shifted, she adapted and pivoted effortlessly.”



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