FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Geographical Society Receives $200,000 Henry Luce Foundation Grant for TeenMaptivists: Building the Next Generation of Women in GeoSTEM Initiative

Description: The Henry Luce Foundation aims to enrich public discourse by promoting innovative scholarship, cultivating new leaders and fostering international understanding. The American Geographical Society (AGS) has received a $200,000 Henry Luce Foundation Grant for the TeenMaptivists Initiative.

[New York City, NY] - [December 29, 2023] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) has received a $200,000 Henry Luce Foundation Grant. This grant is for the development of the TeenMaptivists Initiative. The initiative will create a GeoSTEM learning pathway for up to 125,000+ female AP Human Geography (APHG) students through a school-based club that expands their worldview through mapping while introducing them to GeoSTEM learning and career opportunities. The project is set to start in January 2024 in five high schools around the country, with a focus on introducing girls to GeoSTEM technologies and data through OpenStreetMap (OSM) based activism.

“The potential of the TeenMaptivists initiative for the future is enormous,” said Dr. John Konarski, Chief Executive Officer of the AGS. “We are pleased to undertake this project to provide further support to the APHG community we have long served. Our goal is to help transform the GeoSTEM talent pipeline in a way that the geospatial community will benefit.”

TeenMaptivists’ goal is to introduce high school students, especially young women, to OpenStreetMap and learn how OSM and the humanitarian community collaborate in serving local and remote localities around the world. Participating high school students will be able to think spatially and create geospatial data and maps to help solve diverse problems from making cities safer and cleaner, to responding to localities in crisis after natural disasters. During this initial phase, TeenMaptivists chapters, their activities, their GeoSTEM learning pathways, and the resources required for their success will be prototyped, with the intent to scale this concept nationally in the future.

The Henry Luce Foundation was established in 1936 by Time Magazine co-founder Henry R. Luce to promote innovative scholarship, cultivate new leaders, and foster international understanding. Luce Foundation grants are awarded each year to organizations and institutions for dedicated projects to strengthen public knowledge and understanding.

The AGS is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. The vision of AGS is to be the foremost champion of geography for the benefit of society. The mission of AGS is to convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning, and exploration; and advance geographic knowledge and technologies to address society’s challenges and opportunities. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States and is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education. AGS seeks to engage the
American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.

Contact Information:
American Geographical Society
121 Avenue of the Americas, #6
New York, NY 10013
Telephone: 917-745-8354

Email: ags@americangeo.org
www.americangeo.org

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