MIS 4596
Project Charter

Project Title	Root+Seed	Product/Process Impacted	Digital Mentoring
Start Date	09/15/16	Organization/Department	Education
Target Completion Date	12/06/16	Champion	Franklin Institute

	Description
1. Project Description	There is currently little support for low income and minority students who are interested and invested in pursuing STEM education. In Philadelphia's school district alone, approximately 80% of students come from low-income families. The vast majority of Philadelphia school district students do not attend college - only 35% of Philadelphia students attend 2- or 4-year colleges or universities and only 4% enroll in STEM related majors. The cause is partly due to a lack of access, as the school district enacted major budget cuts over the last few years, cutting off access to extracurricular activities, lab equipment, and counselors. Underrepresented high school students interested in STEM fields will be connected to corporate and college mentors in order to provide support and help students hone their interests and passions. We will create a platform to foster relationships between students and professionals in similar fields of interest.
2. Project Scope	There are a few organizations focused on mentoring high school students hoping to spark an interest in the STEM fields; however, few have an online or mobile presence. We will make it easier for educators to help create meaningful connections for students that are interested in STEM fields. We intend to help students identify their strengths and interests and then present them with collegiate and corporate mentors who can give students a perspective of what specific major paths and career paths may look like. Students and mentors can connect one-on-one or in webchat seminars and compatible educational programs for them to pursue. This will help students discover new programs to participate in while in high school as well as compare various university tracks all in one place. By offering this information in one place, it will reduce the amount of time students spend sifting through college brochures and expose them to opportunities they may have unintentionally missed. We will begin our research by looking at the framework set by Philadelphia Education Fund, which already has a strong foundation set in place for STEM mentoring, but does not have a strong online presence. We will find potential corporate mentors in local corporations with an already vested interest and history of supporting STEM education, providing mentors to high school students, and other areas of philanthropy, including Comcast, Dow Chemical, GSK, and Vanguard. Additionally, we plan to work with nonprofit companies including The Pew Charitable Trust, William Penn Foundation, and Women for Social Innovation in order to help navigate us through the nonprofit sector.

Initially, we will stay within the Philadelphia School District and work with four schools, which will serve as a pilot program. Of the four schools, two special admissions schools - Central High School and Science Leadership Academy - which are schools within the District with a strong STEM presence and focus. This will help us understand how the application functions with students coming in with a strong interest in STEM. The other two schools will be neighborhood schools that have little to no focus in STEM education besides the required curricula - Olney High School and Ben Franklin High School. This will help us understand how to target students that might have an interest in STEM and/or college but aren't actively seeking opportunities or hadn't realized that their interests and talents align with a STEM field.

3. Project Goal and Deliverables	Metrics	Baseline	**Current**	**Goal**
● Create a partner pilot program with four schools, two stem focused and two other schools.	Number of partner schools	N/A	0	2
● Have mentoring agreements with two businesses	Number of partner businesses	N/A	0	2
● Deliver a website with functionality to facilitate mentor/mentee relationship	Mentor/mentee relationships	N/A	0	20

4. Business Results Expected	Finalized solution will offer convenient, tailored access for students and mentors to help spread information and access to STEM programs through our targeted populations
5. Team Members	Our team is: Meghan Ho, Andrew Winkles, Kenneth Wunderle. Our champion is the Franklin Institute, which is interested in investing in the future of STEM-minded students throughout the city of Philadelphia. The Franklin Institute can provide access to grant opportunities, possible mentors, and connect us with local high school administrations it is already connected with. We will be looking to our mentor, former Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer of CIGNA Andrea Anania, our professor David Schuff, and any other resources we see necessary.
6. Support Required and Risks	A thorough understanding of how the Philadelphia Education Fund and other STEM mentorship programs operate is necessary to understanding what's being done, what's working, and what could be improved. Researching as many programs as we can is a way for us to get a general overview of how the programs are run, but we will need to reach out to specific organizations in order to get a more in-depth look at what the organization's mission, plan, and operation looks

	like.			
7. Customer Benefits	Our solution will give students and mentors a unified environment to nurture, network and provide support and guidance for individuals interested in a STEM program/career. This one-stop-shop will serve the needs of each of these groups by giving them simple tools to accomplish common tasks associated with developing a strong understanding of STEM and future employment in the field.			
8. Technology Architecture	The team will primarily be using Justinmind Prototyping tool to create our solution. All team members have some experience with the tool.			

9. Overall Schedule/Work Breakdown Structure (Key milestones & dates)	**Responsible individual**	**Output (notes, diagrams, interviews, screen prints)**	**Date started if in progress or expected completion date**	**Date completed or date completion is expected**
Planning	Andrew, Kenneth, Meghan	Notes, research, diagrams, schedule	9/5/16	9/10/16
Analysis	Andrew, Kenneth, Meghan	Research, diagrams, sketches	9/10/16	10/15/16
Design	Andrew, Kenneth, Meghan	Mock-up designs	10/1/16	11/1/16
Implementation: Construction	Andrew, Kenneth, Meghan	Prototyping	10/15/16	11/15/16
Implementation: Testing	Andrew, Kenneth, Meghan	Testing, bug fixes	11/15/16	12/1/16
Installation	Andrew, Kenneth, Meghan	Final prototype, presentation	11/15/16	12/6/16