The Goals Behind the Challenges

World Series of Innovation 2018-2019

Every year, NFTE invites students ages 13–24 to practice thinking of original business ideas to address challenges faced by real organizations. In addition to solving 21st Century business challenges, some of our challenges ask students to put on their creative thinking caps to help solve global goals that the United Nations has identified as the largest and most serious challenges to humanity.

Why Set Global Goals?

90% of countries have more women in government than they did just one generation ago – in 46 countries, women now hold more than 30% of seats in national government.

This is a big deal. For a woman to be in a position of power – either in government or in business – she had to be able to travel to school without being harassed. She needed to be allowed to learn to read, write, and express herself. There had to be a system in place that allowed her to move up to a leadership role.

In 2000, the United Nations created eight global Millennium Development Goals that helped to address some of the most serious challenges to humanity, with a deadline of 2015. One of these goals was "Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women." While there is still progress to be made, setting the eight goals and rallying people to do something about them had significant results.

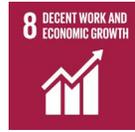### The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Now the United Nations is going one step further, creating 17 Sustainable Development Goals for all people to work on together and solve by the year 2030. With the technological and educational tools widely available today, we are in a better position than any generation before us to solve these problems.

The 17 Goals

The Goals Behind the Challenges, cont'd.

Let's Solve A Few! The Innovation Challenges in this year's World Series of Innovation will center on four Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Promote decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation
- Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Develop quality, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure, with a focus on affordable and fair access for all
- Enhance scientific research in industrial sectors, encouraging innovation
- Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries
- Significantly increase access to information and communications technology, including providing universal and affordable internet access in least developed countries

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- Halve per capita global food waste and reduce food losses along production and supply chains
- Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption
- Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, impact reduction, and early warning
- Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

<div align="center">Thanks for helping to change the world!</div>