

## *Virtual Event*

# Hacks for Humanity 2021 Report



### *Overview & Context*

In light of ever-evolving COVID-19 regulations, variants, protocols, and reports, **Hacks for Humanity 2021** happened virtually for the second year in a row. Armed with experience and knowledge from 2020, this year's Hackathon showcased a quick-witted staff, able to tackle any technological difficulty, an eager mentor and volunteer base ready to put their practiced skills to work, and a group of participants so passionate and diverse that it has surely set a precedent for future hackathons. *Talking, listening, and connecting* were highlighted in various avenues by a multitude of individuals throughout the three-day event, which took place October 8, 9, and 10.

Project Humanities' first Hacks for Humanity occurred in 2014 with the concept of interdisciplinary teamwork at its core. This concept has continued to booster Hacks for Humanity's reputation across multiple fields, studies, and professions. Too often, hackathons are attended only by those within technological fields, but **Hacks for Humanity** has consistently resisted and challenged this notion; welcoming coders, artists, developers, designers, humanists, businesspeople, futurists, students, retirees, high schoolers and hobbyists to collaborate on intricate and passionate projects. Since the start, teams have been randomly assembled, encouraging the development of communicative skills and teamwork capabilities.

**Team Participants (49)**

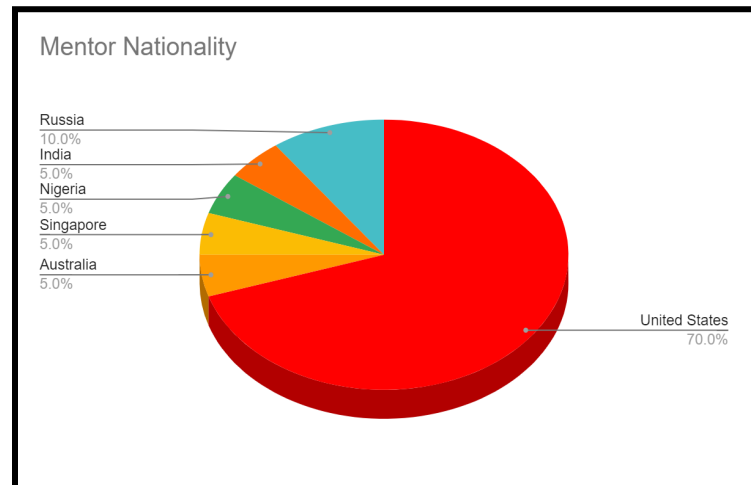
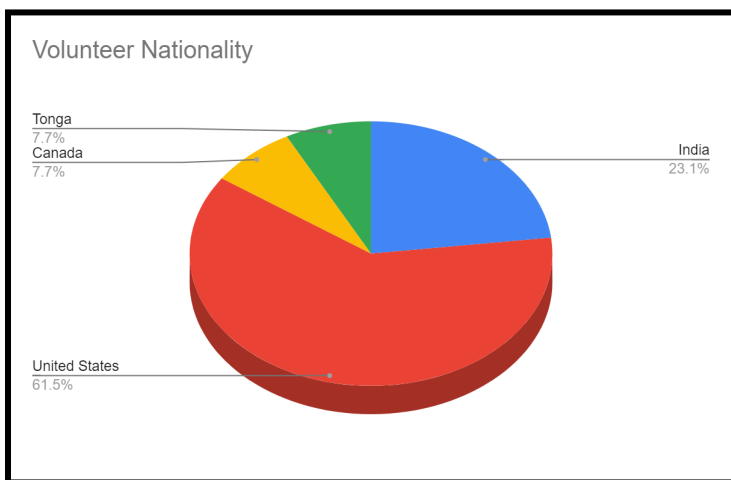
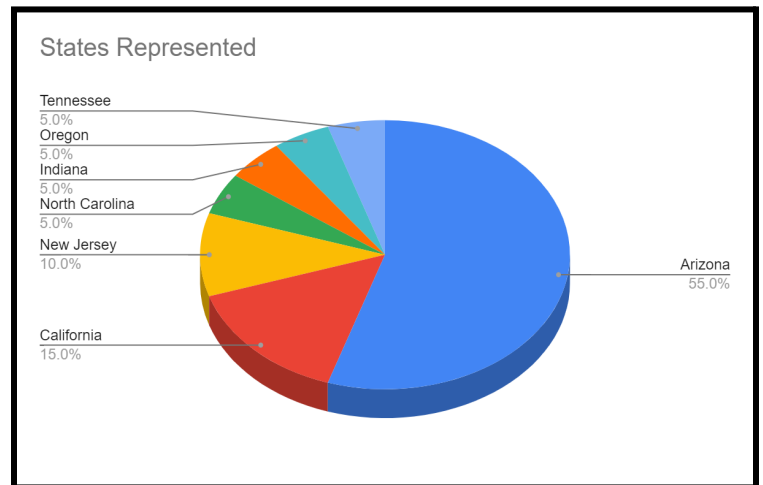
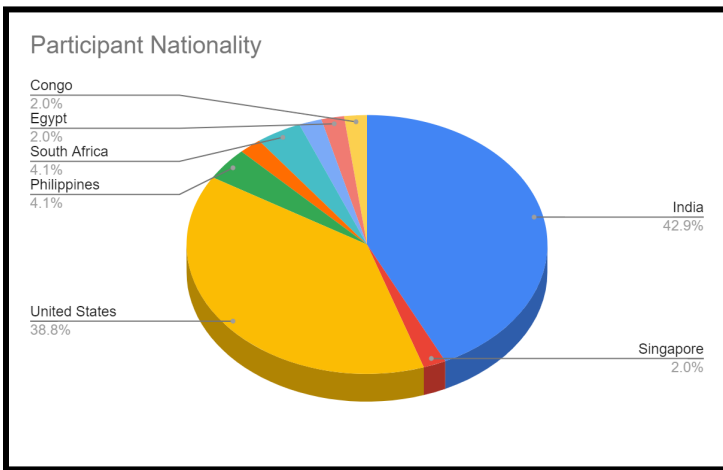
**Locations**

A virtual format opens doors for national and international participation for players, mentors, and volunteers.

**Countries Represented (13)**

- *Team Participants:* India, Philippines, South Africa, Singapore, Indonesia, Nigeria, Egypt, Republic of the Congo
- *Mentors/Volunteers:* United States, Canada, India, Russia, Tonga, Australia, Singapore, Nigeria, India

**USA States Represented (7) : AZ, CA, NJ, NC, IN, TN, GA**



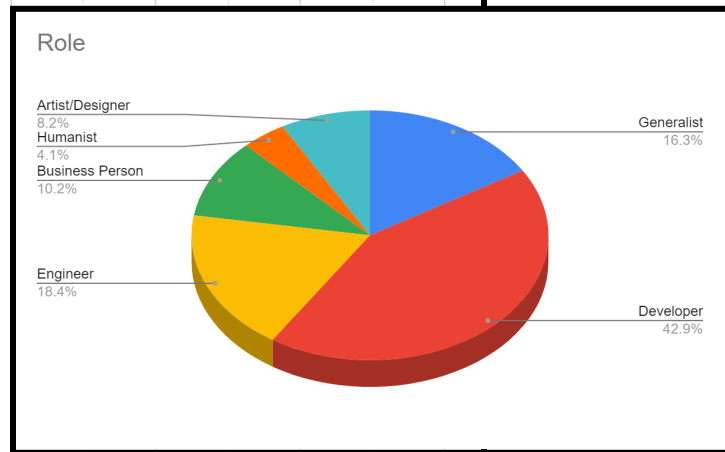
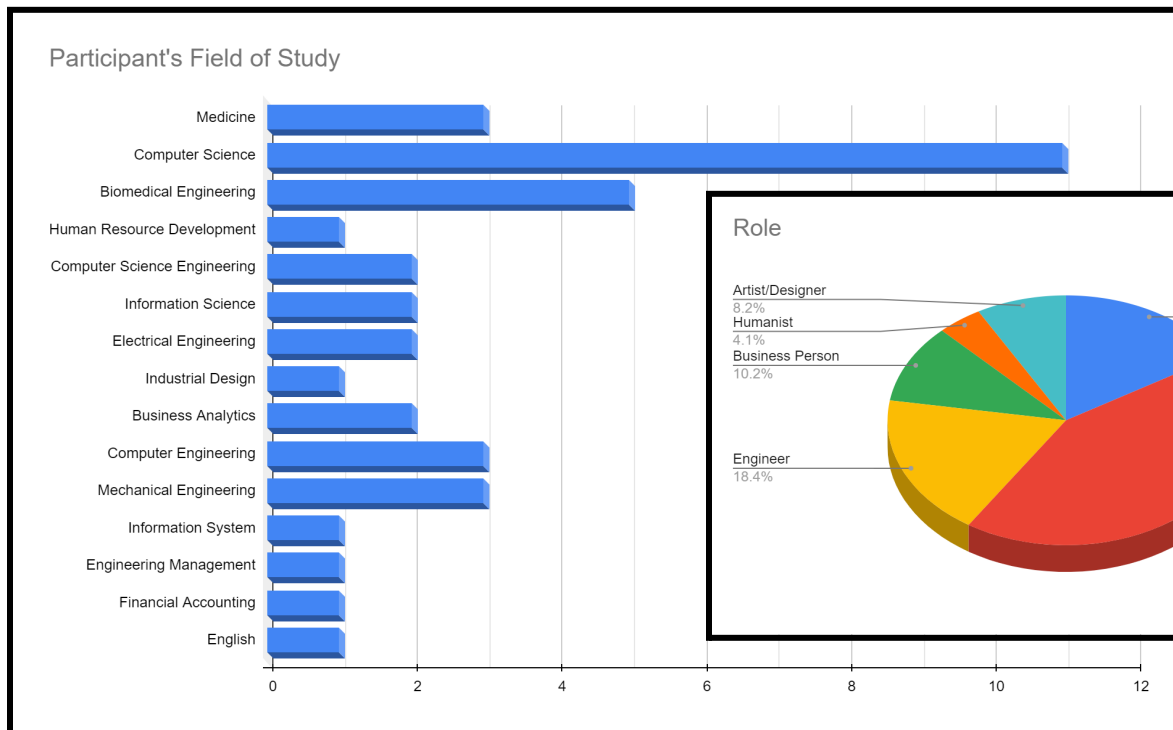
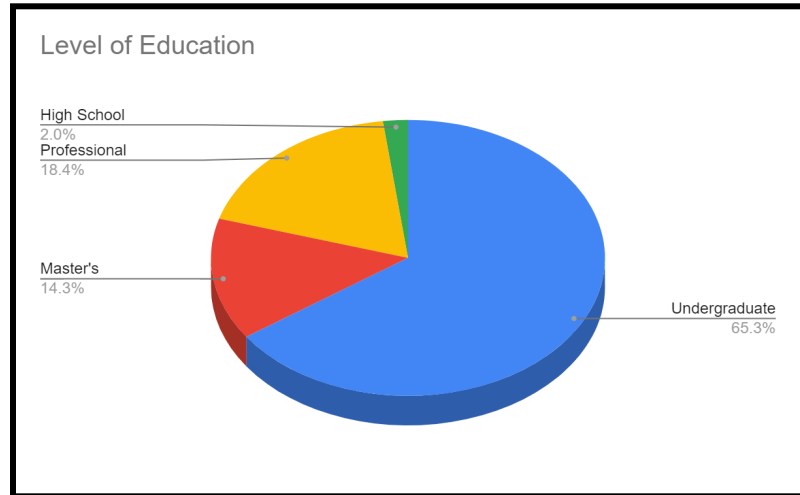
**Education & Expertise**

- Undergraduate students: 32
- Graduate students: 7
- High schoolers: 1
- Business professionals: 7

**Interests & Affiliations**

*High School:* Pasig City Science High School  
**(Philippines)**

*Undergraduate & Graduate Schools:* Arizona State University, Parul University **(India)**, PSG College of Technology **(India)**, Delhi University **(India)**, Dayananda Sagar University **(India)**, Coimbatore Institute Of Technology **(India)**, National Institute of Technology: Jamshedpur **(India)**, Vellore Institute of Technology **(India)**, University of Illinois, University of Mumbai **(India)**, Telkom University **(Indonesia)**, University of South Africa **(South Africa)**, MIT:ADT University **(India)**, AISSMS College of Engineering **(India)**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Baroda Medical College **(India)**, MKSSS Cummins College **(India)**, Clackamas Community College, Cairo University **(Egypt)**, CFI-CIRAS **(Republic of the Congo)**



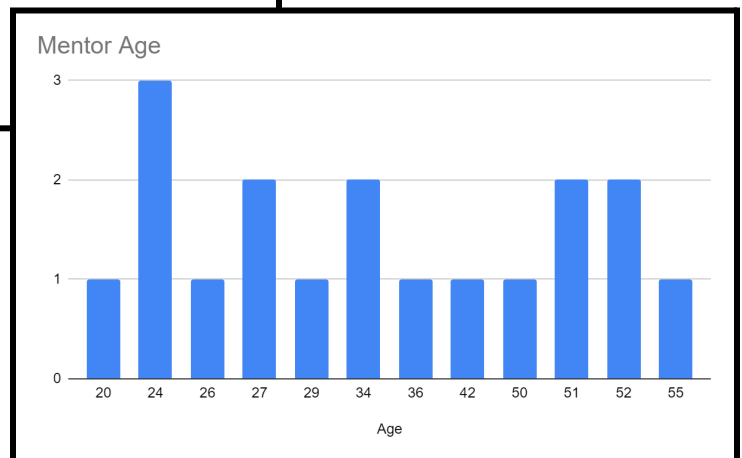
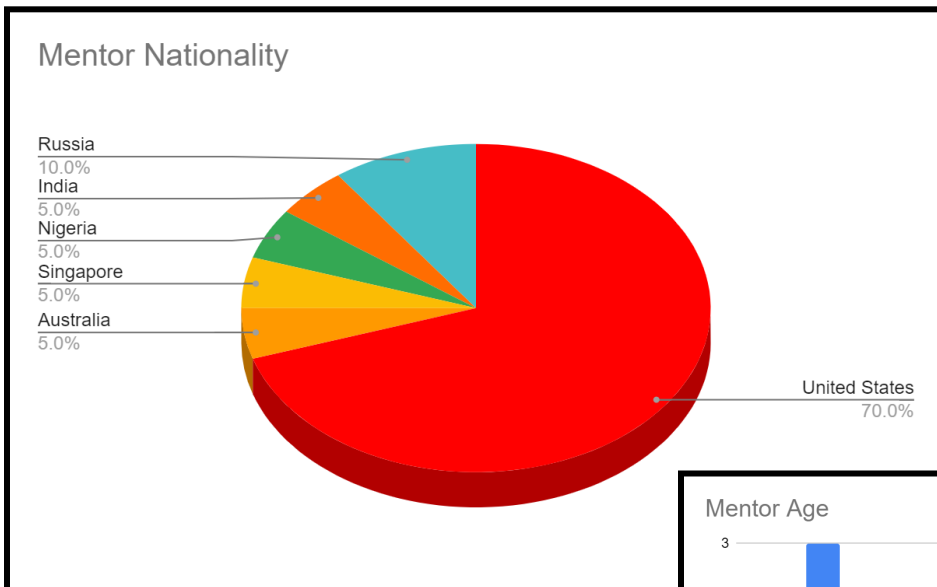
**Professional Communities**

Amazon Tempe, ASU E+I, State Farm, Catholic Women’s League, U.S. Dept of State Community Solutions, Maricopa County, ASU Venture Devils, Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, Clean Ocean Foundation, ADP, Ecell IIT Bombay, Civic Engagement Beyond Voting, National Organization for Women, Farmers Insurance, Teba Consult International, Devexperts, Teacher, Homemaker

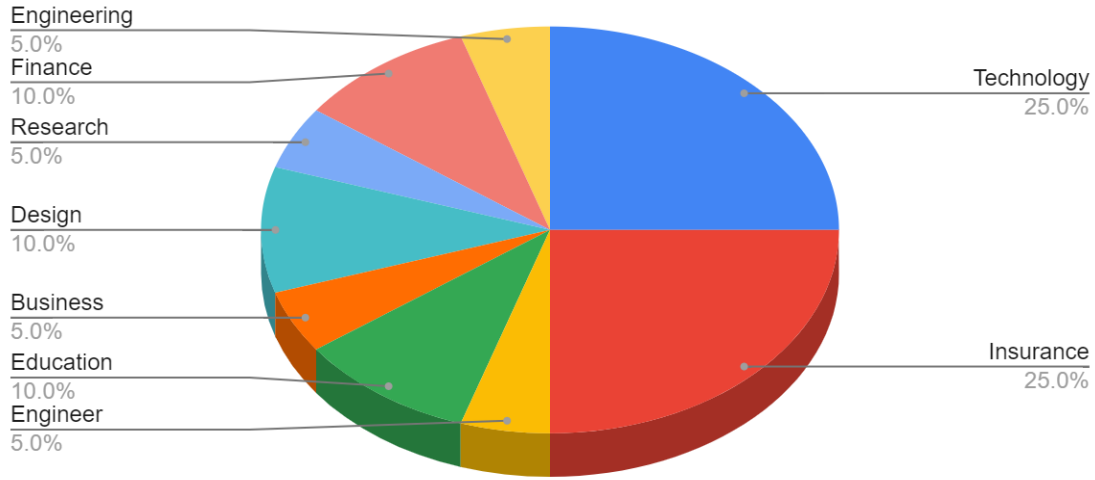
**Mentors (18)**

Mentors commit to a minimum of 2-hour blocks wherein they test teams’ ideas and offer guidance. Mentors utilize their expertise to help teams spark creativity, generate ideas, problem solve, and develop final presentations. Mentors are scheduled according to their expertise and assist participants with submitting on time quality work for deadlines. Team participants were required to show both their Canva Business Model and Challenge Statement to two mentors and run their pitch by a panel of mentors for feedback and approval before presenting their live pitches to final competition judges. Fortunately, we had mentors from all diverse fields, which provided well-rounded perspectives for teams.

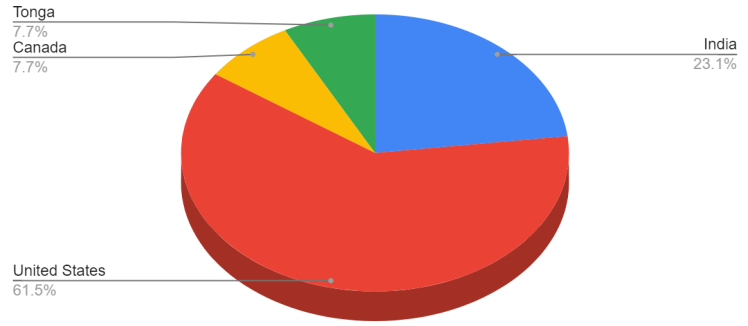
Again this year, **Hacks for Humanity** counted among its mentors State Farm employees. State Farm employees provided feedback to teams’ live pitches prior to the final judging, giving teams the opportunity to fine tune their pitches.



### Mentor - Industry



### Volunteer Nationality

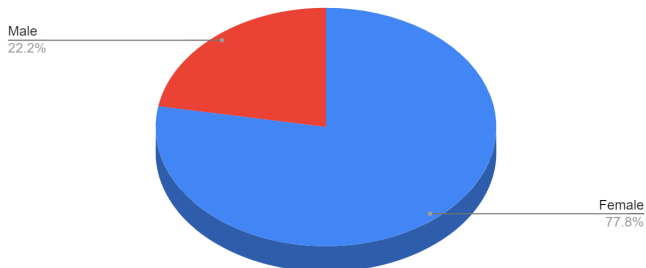


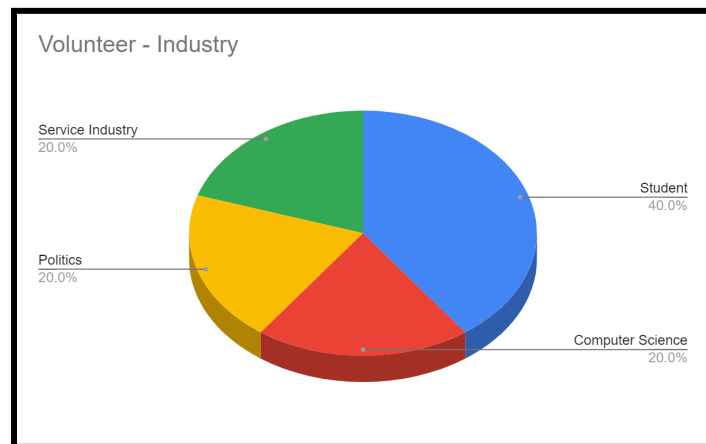
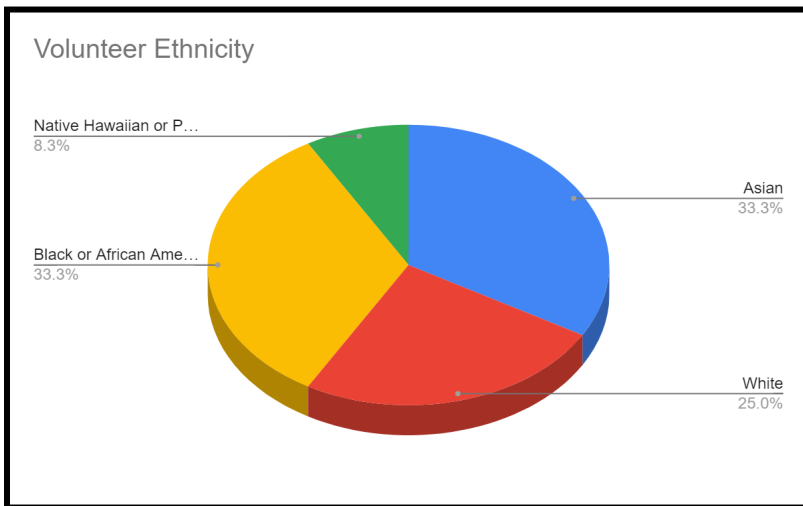
### Volunteers (7):

Volunteers sign up in 2-hour blocks to assist in areas of event logistics and implementation. Due to the virtual nature of this year’s hacking event, volunteers no longer needed to assist with responsibilities such as event setup or cleanup, but rather helped staff facilitate virtual activities and games, verified team submissions, and monitored the Slack Help Line.

This year, our hackathon counted among its volunteers coders, STEM educators, leaders of nonprofits, and designers from Tonga, Canada and India, in addition to the United States.

### Volunteer Gender Identity





### Judges (3)

- Laura Terech** is the President of the Central Phoenix Inez Casiano chapter of the National Organization for Women, where she also acts as their Legislative Liaison. A former educator, Laura serves as a coordinator and trainer for Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. She is a community organizer who has been a part of federal and local campaigns. She is active with Save Our Schools Arizona, Moms Demand Action, and Indivisible. Laura is passionate about women's issues, racial and economic justice, and voting rights. Holding degrees from both Arizona State University and the University of Arizona, Laura is proud to be a Sun Devil and a Wildcat.
- Christine Whitney Sanchez** is a social entrepreneur, consultant, coach, and architect of large-scale transformation. She has worked across five continents to build the capacity for mindful leadership, strategic collaboration and thriving organizations and communities. As the Chief Culture Officer for the University Technology Office, she collaboratively designs and advances an integrated approach to the development of UTO's values-led organizational culture. To enhance ASU's local impact and social embeddedness, she actively works within and beyond ASU to co-develop solutions to the critical social, cultural and environmental issues facing 21st century Arizona.

- **Tanushree Ghosh (Tanu)** currently works at the Intel Corporation as an engineer and supplier manager. She is also an activist, an artist, a writer and in her own words: a relentless DIYer. She has a PhD in Material Science and Chemistry from Cornell University and has worked at the Brookhaven National Laboratories. She has actively volunteered for and chaired several national and international non-profits (ASHA, AID, Smile Donors, Mercy Corps, Global Reserve). She has contributed to multiple anthologies including the acclaimed ‘Defiant Dreams’ which was selected into Oprah’s reading list 2.0 and has published poetry and fiction in several literary magazines (including honorable mention for Glimmer Train and Tuck magazine). Her blog posts and stories are in effort to provoke thoughts towards social issues, especially issues concerning women. She is currently working on opening her own NGO – HerRights to facilitate resource mobilization for victims of gender violence. Her personal website is:  
[www.thoughtsandrights.com](http://www.thoughtsandrights.com)

### **Sponsors**

- State Farm
- ASU J. Orin Edson Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute

### **Supporters**

- Avnet Integrated
- *Arizona Informant*
- Gateway at Tempe

### **Selected Event Feedback**

“Keep it Virtual - I love that it's a global inclusive event.”

“Random Team formation was the best and I have never seen in any hackathon!”

“I think the ice breaker was really fun and helpful in getting acquainted with teammates. The other workshops and activities are fun too!”

“The diversity of the participants of this Hackathon is great.”

“[Hacks for Humanity] lets everyone participate with no coding or very little coding experience .”

“The mentorship was very important and helpful.”

“Love that there are people from all educations and backgrounds!”

“To be honest, for me, it was perfect.”

“This is a really good activity. It is an opportunity to challenge ourselves, learn different things which we hadn't explored earlier, learning from workshops, peer groups, mentors and research. I wish all the best to continue this event every year.....”

“Everything was really nice and nicely coordinated.”

“Team building exercises were really informative .”

“Connecting people from different backgrounds is a good idea as people with different skill sets are complementary to each other.”

“It was inspiring and a brand new experience for me!”

“It was a unique experience, keep it up, please!”

“I enjoyed it overall. It's my first hackathon and it was a wonderful experience for me.”

“Time zones were quite hectic but I loved working with new people, it was so much fun and the teamwork was just amazing, everyone was willing to help and pitch in at all times!”

“Loved the collab atmosphere with people around the world.”

## **Sessions, Workshops, and Participant Engagement Activities**

*Icebreaker:* Live Pitch Karaoke

### *Plenary Keynote:* **Bias and Technology**

Professor Miguel Fernandez is Composition and Literature faculty and Faculty Liaison for Student Veterans at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, in Arizona. He has received several teaching awards, including the 2012 Gilbert Chamber of Commerce Community College Educator of the Year, a 2013 League of Innovation's Roueche Excellence Award, and recipient of the 2015 Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Recognition Award for his work with student veterans. He graduated from Valley Leadership Institute, Class 38. He teaches Freshman composition with a focus on OSR/OSINT research techniques to detect and decipher bias and fake news. He is a 2019 ISPPF Fellow and a 2019-2020 Maricopa Institute of Learning Research Fellow, focusing on credibility literacy.



*Workshop: “Creating Your Own Website”*

Facilitator Sid Paralkar is a Program Coordinator at Zero Waste at Arizona State University, where he oversees the operations of all the recycling programs at ASU. He is an ASU alum, having completed his master’s degree in Sustainable Solutions in 2016. After graduation, he continued to work in the field of sustainable development in various roles and capacities before he started working at ASU earlier this year. Sid has volunteered in the past few editions of Hacks for Humanity and is joining this year as tech support. Sid has an undergraduate Bachelor’s in engineering.

*Participant Engagement Activities:*

Virtual Museum Scavenger Hunt, Happy with the Project Humanities Team, Game Night, Breakfast Hour Show and Tell- “Songs I Wake Up To”

**Team Competition Results:**

**First Place: Team 7: MeaSURE**

Track: Water

MeaSURE is a platform that provides users the tools to see water quality everywhere they go, with real-time metrics in their hands—allowing them to speak up and speak out against those who see them as just another number on a spreadsheet.

**Second Place: Team 14: SOS Kids**

Track: Sports

Kids often face a variety of challenges, such as anxiety, depression, and even abuse, when involved in competitive sports. SOS Kids provides mental health resources to help children identify and deal with these issues.

**Third Place: Team 5: Expression**

Track: Healthcare

Expression is a note-taking app that journals the user’s thoughts. It addresses the mental health issues of dealing with stress, depression, and anxiety by providing a healthy and private way to express oneself.

**Media Coverage:**

An annual event, “Hacks for Humanity” will focus on ways to intervene social issues with technology,

<https://azpbs.org/horizon/2021/10/annual-hacks-humanity-focus-intervene-social-issues-technology/>

**Hacks for Humanity 2021 Promo Video:**

[https://www.hacksforhumanity.io/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Untitled.mp4?\\_=1](https://www.hacksforhumanity.io/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Untitled.mp4?_=1)

**Post Event Activity:**

Dr. Neal Lester participated in “[How Black Inventors Are Paving the Way in Modern Science for a Sustainable Future](#),” Pathways to Sustainable Invention Virtual Speaker Series, sponsored by Beyond Benign Green Chemistry Education, National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, and Society for Science (December 2021)