

THREE PILLARS INITIATIVE

Teaching the art, science and business of philanthropy to the next generation

PEDAGOGICAL MODEL

The Three Pillars Initiative (TPI) program paradigm is based on the Gold Standard Project Based Learning (PBL) model developed by the Buck Institute for Education (<http://www.bie.org>). It is a teaching model in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period to investigate and respond to an authentic and complex question, problem or challenge. PBL engages students in learning that is deep and long lasting. It inspires in them a love of learning and provides a personal connection to their attainment of skills and knowledge.

The TPI program also incorporates the teaching principles developed by Battelle for Kids (<http://www.battelleforkids.org>) and articulated through its Partnership for 21st Century Learning Network, a national organization that advocates for the integration of four basic skills in all learning: communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

By combining these two pedagogical models, the TPI program hopes to transform the students' educational experience by:

- 1) Providing real-world relevance to solving problems that are important to them and their communities.
- 2) Introducing hands-on learning practices which help students apply what they learn to new situations.
- 3) Offering students opportunities to see the real-time impact of their efforts which give them a sense of purpose and fulfillment.
- 4) Empowering students to take initiative, work responsibly, collaborate in teams and communicate ideas.
- 5) Using an intergenerational approach in which trained adult community mentors work in student teams to deliver the program experiences.