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Dear Project Edge parents and guardians,

We would like to warmly welcome you and your student as the newest members of the Project Edge family! As this summer’s program directors, we are thrilled to be leading this community that has been so formative to our own Duke experiences. Although it is not easy to part with your students for one of the last weeks of the summer, we ensure that Project Edge will be the most rewarding leap into Duke your student could have.

As a program within Duke’s Office of New Student Programs, we understand that providing preliminary information can be helpful in answering any questions you may have. However, we kindly request that you share as little as you can with your Edge participant, as we want participants to experience our annual traditions and surprises in the moment and have a great time.

We have spent the past year working to polish our curriculum to focus on the participant experience above all else. We aim to guide and mentor your students as they transition to college life, especially considering the recent challenges due to the pandemic. We have worked diligently with the Office of New Student Programs, the Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiative, and our network of engaged program alumni to ensure that we provide the best experience possible in all forms possible. Our goal is to fill the week with novel learning experiences and to approach every day with a motto of constant improvement. Most of all, we want to be a place of joy and fun.

We have spent countless hours assembling an excellent planning committee, a diverse and enthusiastic group of student staffers, and a large collection of faculty and industry mentors in order to ensure that this program runs smoothly. In line with our core principles, we are deeply committed to collaboration, innovation, creativity, and design, as well as integrity, inclusivity, and respect. This will be the fourth year our program has run, and the love our alumni have for Edge is a testament to how fun and rewarding this program can be for students. We have ambitious plans to expand upon past years and make this the best Edge yet!

We hope that this guide helps illuminate many of the programmatic elements and builds excitement for you as well! Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions that you may have. We can not wait to meet your students!

Jess Edelson ‘22 and Will Inigo ‘23
Co-Directors, 2021
Project Edge’s mission is to provide students with experiences, friendships, and useful knowledge to help them start Duke off with a blast. Whatever they want to make, design, or share, they will have the knowledge to innovate on any scale. We believe in the potential of each participant to learn and create a unique Duke experience for themselves. We celebrate curiosity, stepping outside of the treaded path, and learning something from everyone. During Project Edge, we connect students to upperclassmen, faculty, and entrepreneurs; we facilitate creative thinking through our design challenge; we use validated learning principles to make sure that we end every day with new understanding. Through our programming, we hope to immerse students in a variety of challenges and empower learning through failure along the way. Day in and day out, we are dedicated to having fun and building relationships that last throughout participants’ four years at Duke and beyond.
HISTORY & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Project Edge is proud to be Duke’s newest pre-orientation program. This will be the fourth year of the program and participants will play a large role in shaping the culture and traditions of the program in years to come. The program was founded by students who believe in the value of hands-on learning and using interdisciplinary, innovative solutions to solve problems in the real world. “Edge” symbolizes being at the forefront—we work on the edge of what exists and what is yet to come.

This summer, our program will begin on August 9, 2021. We operate out of the Office of New Student Programs in Southgate, East Campus. For 2021, our home base will be located on East Campus, and our program will consist of approximately 40 participants and 20 staffers.

During the program, we introduce first-years to a wide variety of makerspaces, organizations, and people. Students will learn and work in places such as the Foundry, the Innovation Co-Lab, and American Underground. Entrepreneurs will join students for casual lunches, where they will have the opportunity to share their experiences and answer questions. In addition, students will work on an exciting, real-life Design Challenge (Page 6). This will encourage them to think on the spot, bond with their team, and use new skills learned in workshops throughout the week.
In addition to working on the design curriculum, our planning committee helps us coordinate program logistics during the school year. During the program, our student staffers, or “Crew Leaders,” lead crews of ~5 students and help us run the day-to-day of the program. Both groups of student leaders were selected in a highly competitive process, and they are committed to our mission. Crew Leaders have been trained in Title IX Mandatory Reporting and receive additional training for programming in August.

On top of having an exciting start to Duke, the 40 Project Edge participants will come away from the program with at least 20 upperclassmen mentors to support them for years to come. These mentors will be future teammates, personal advisors, and close friends to help them adjust to life on campus. The eight days of the program will be packed with activities and time to recharge, so students will enter Orientation Week energized and ready to thrive in a brand-new environment.
SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

Dates: The morning of August 9, 2021 through the evening of August 15, 2021. The Innovation Exposition, a showcase of the students’ creative thinking throughout the week will take place both in-person and on Zoom on August 15th.

While Project Edge will generally follow the same daily structure, the time for each activity may vary based on businesses’ availability. Our program is designed so students can learn and practice new skills in the morning, then apply what they have learned in the afternoon. Below is a sample schedule with additional information about activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Workshops on Hardware + Software, Design Thinking, Business Models, and Pitching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Innovation Workshop</td>
<td>Casual meal where students can connect with new people and ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Local Business Tour</td>
<td>Students will identify a problem and work on a solution throughout the week (more on page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 AM</td>
<td>Lunch with Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>Catered from local restaurants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Design Challenge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Large Group Activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td>Crew Bonding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 PM</td>
<td>Free Time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Arrival Information:**

All students need to complete an entry test when they arrive at Duke. Entry tests will be done on West Campus at Penn Pavillion. We expect the testing process to be a smooth and quick one and it should take less than thirty minutes - hopefully closer to ten.

Students should sign up for an appointment on August 9 using the following link: [https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/StudentEntryTesting@ProdDuke.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/](https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/StudentEntryTesting@ProdDuke.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/)

After completing their entry test, students can check in with East Campus Housing to move in. You will be able to change your appointment date and time if needed. A parking pass will be sent to you shortly before your appointment date.
The design challenge is an open-ended project that will give participants the opportunity to innovate together. Our design challenge is modeled after Google Venture’s Sprint model, which takes students from an idea to a tested product in five days. Throughout the design challenge, students will identify problems, interview customers, determine possible solutions, and create prototypes. Each design challenge group will have approximately four students with similar areas of interests. Throughout the week, students will brainstorm and work together in various creative spaces to complete the design challenge. This may involve anything from working to solve problems faced by local startups to issues people face in their day to day life.
Although all Project Edge spaces will be secure and locked, we are not liable for any lost or stolen belongings. Therefore, we recommend to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables with you if possible.

Clothing:
• 8 days of casual clothing (Durham is hot and humid in August!)
• 2 sets of athletic clothing for outdoor activities
• 1 set of business casual clothing for the Innovation Exhibition
• Light jacket or sweatshirt
• Bathing suit and beach towel
• Socks, underwear, etc.
• Pajamas
• Tennis Shoes/Sneakers

Health & Personal Hygiene:
• Medications
• Toiletries (shampoo, body wash, deodorant, contact lenses, toothbrush, feminine hygiene products if applicable, etc.)
• Shower shoes and towel

Outdoor Gear:
• Sunscreen
• Sunglasses or hat
• Bug spray
• Rain jacket or umbrella
• Bedding/sleeping bag and pillow

Miscellaneous:
• Laptop and charger
• Phone and phone charger
• Bookbag
• Extra spending money ($40 - $50; all program costs are covered, but some students may want to purchase snacks or other products)
Smoking, including e-cigarettes, at any time during the program is strictly prohibited. The consumption of alcohol or use of drugs at any time during Project Edge is also strictly prohibited.

All Project Edge participants are expected to remain with the program until its completion on the evening of August 15th.

During the week, we strongly discourage any visitation by parents and friends. We ask that participants only use their cell-phones during free time so they can fully engage with our programming.
Where will my student live during the program? 
Project Edge participants will have access to their permanent dormitory assignments beginning August 9. While our activities will take up most of your student’s day, they will be able to return to their own dorm room each night.

Because my student will have access to their permanent assignments from the start of Edge, may I move them in early? 
We recommend only bringing what is necessary for Project Edge, as we will not have the staff or logistical power necessary to coordinate full move-ins and have not planned the program so that students have extensive time to settle into their permanent dorm rooms. Official move-in day is August 17th for all students. Please reach out if there are any questions about this policy.

**Will my student have a place to stay after the program ends until official move-in?**
Yes, students will be able to stay in their permanent dorm rooms.

How will my student get to campus if arriving by plane at RDU? 
Students will receive a form via email asking for their arrival information. We will arrange transportation to campus for each student flying into RDU. Please encourage students to fill out the form once they receive it!

What types of safety measures are observed during Project Edge? 
We are fortunate to have nearly a 1:2 ratio of Edge staffers to first-years. Crew Leaders are “on-call” 24/7 to ensure there is always an easily accessible staff member should any student require assistance. Furthermore, each student’s Residential Assistant will be present for the program’s entirety.

Will my student be able to attend religious services? 
Our program is designed so that students may attend religious services without missing any planned activities. If your student is interested in attending a service or knowing more about religious life at Duke, please have them contact us.
If you need to contact us for any reason before, during, or after the program, feel free to email us at projectedge@duke.edu. In addition to this, we would love to hear feedback about what you found helpful in this guide, as well as what could be improved for the future.

You may also reach us personally at the following emails:

Jess Edelson: jre29@duke.edu
Will Inigo: whi@duke.edu

Thank you for entrusting us with your students. We can't wait to get started!