



**FPSPI**  
FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM  
INTERNATIONAL

**December 2020**

# PARENT PERSPECTIVES

This edition of **Parent Perspectives** provides testimonials from students, coaches, parents, and alumni from the Minnesota & Wisconsin Affiliates. Thank you to Affiliate Directors Cheryl Whitesitt (Minnesota) and Lynn Buckmaster (Wisconsin) for sharing these heartfelt inspirational words and photos! In the true spirit of FPS teamwork, these directors created not only this edition together, but the November edition as well! Our organization is grateful for such inspirational and collaborative leaders!

**Also congratulations to the Minnesota affiliate on their 40th anniversary in 2020!**

**Included in this edition are testimonials and reflections on FPS participation over the past years, please enjoy!**

**FPS matters to current/past students ...**



*"I enjoyed the format of using Google Docs for the online State Competition. Although, it is always fun to see and compete with our teammates (which I certainly hope we can do next year), competing online this year taught us so much that we potentially couldn't have learned in any other year!"*

- Manisha Asrani, Junior at Wayzata High School, Plymouth, Minnesota

*"I feel that I already won because I was part of the FPS process all year long. Even though it was hard, I did not give up. That is why I feel I already won."*

*"We found the time and made the effort so all year long we just became stronger." We began brainstorming ways to continue meeting over the summer. "Maybe call it FPS summer camp!"*

*"Even my parents are talking about why FPS topics are relevant."*

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade FPSers in Israel



*"I'm not an athlete so this is the first time I've ever gotten to compete in something. This is the most exciting day in my life!"*

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at the MN Regional Competition

*"It's really cool when it's okay to be smart."*

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade MN FPSer

*"In elementary I was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder. My teacher really thought I'd be good at FPS so I got to be in the class. FPS has taught me how to focus. I no longer need medication. I use the FPS process to plan my day and to stay focused."*

- 11<sup>th</sup> grade MN FPSer

## FPS matters to alumni...

*"I've been in FPS since the fourth grade. By the 6<sup>th</sup> grade I thought that I really knew the FPS process. As an FPS alum, I'm really glad that I stayed in FPS because now I know how much I had yet to learn. I keep getting better and better at using and applying the process, not just in the competition, but in every decision I make I find myself brainstorming ideas and developing criteria to help me determine the best plan of action."*

- Jocelyn Filiyaro, MN alum

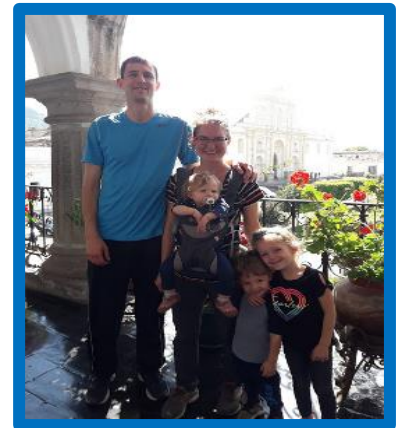


*"My FPS coach always asked, 'How might that challenge be a part of the solution?' It stimulated me to think about situations differently. As I sat in my law school classes, having read case study after case study, not knowing whether or not I would be asked to be the prosecution or the defense, I realized that I was always prepared, because while reading the case studies, I was practiced at looking at situations from many points of view."*

- Leigh Campbell, MN Alum

*"FPS taught us to be flexible and globally minded. We have the openness and confidence to seek, thrive in, and contribute to communities far different from our upbringing. We value highly that our children are global citizens, forming friendships, and learning in a culture differing from that of their birth. We are able to evaluate the world, communities and ourselves differently because of FPS knowledge and experiences."*

- Andy and Kirsten Pethan, who met as WI FPSers and now live and work in Guatemala



*"During my entire K-12 tenure in the Madison School District, no other experience was more influential or beneficial to my ability to think broadly and creatively than FPS. At many points in my life, without actively thinking about it, I have taken what seemed like the obvious, simple and necessary step of evaluating situations by prioritizing problems and choosing from a range of potential solutions."*

- Evan Wolf, WI FPS alum, restoration ecologist

## **FPS matters to coaches...**

*"We were working on Education Policy and they were given a future that was our school. They were charged with finding the problem(s) and creating solutions specific for Richfield High School. It was the best week of my 12 year career. Thank you. I just wish more politicians learned the FPS process."*

- Mike Harris, MN FPS Teacher/Coach

*"Truly, learning the process of problem solving has been invaluable to me. I feel as though I learn new things every year. I appreciate the structure of the program and the components as taught to my students. Thinking*



*objectively and with reason is a valuable tool for not only me but my students as well."*

-Aimie Rognsvoog, coach

*"In effect, FPS has the power to change lives now and in the future."*

- Becky Stellmacher, coach



## **FPS matters to parents...**



*"The Future Problem Solving Program saved my son when he was on the verge of rebellion. It challenged him in ways that the classroom did not and engaged him in real world scenarios."*

- Peggy Derrick, MN FPS

"FPS is the dress rehearsal for life, looking at real life issues while in a safe environment."

- Joe Lefto, MN FPS



*"FPS is an excellent approach to teach critical thinking and clear writing plus working with others in a team"*

-Wisconsin parent/coach

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Below are some vital life skills learned in Future Problem Solving as noted by Argen Hicks. Argen is currently serving as FPSPI Board of Trustees president and Georgia Affiliate Director.

- Knowing a problem solving process that can be used in any situation
- Creative and critical thinking
- Teamwork and negotiation
- Flexibility in thinking and action
- Decision-making
- Oral and written communication
- Commitment to tasks
- Research with critical analysis of causes and effects of situations
- Time management
- Development of a global outlook

