

# Educate + Engage = Empower

2020 Annual Report



### Dear Friends and Supporters,

Potencia aims to make affordable and effective English classes accessible to immigrants and refugees in the United States. We recruit and train civic-minded college students as English tutors for their communities. 2020 marked another chapter in our journey to make learning and community engagement more accessible for our learners and tutors.

Founded in 2019, Potencia has been partnering with Tufts University, Boston University, and Northeastern University to train tutors and serve learners in the Boston area. As of the end of 2020, we are running around 50 online classes weekly, and continuously improving our training and curriculum to make quality English classes more accessible.

We hope that our tutors' and learners' commitment and passion inspire you to take action that will help us take a step forward toward our mission. Your support is essential. Let's together make our community a better place to live.

Warmly,

**Amanda Wang & Junhyung Yoon**

Co-founders, Potencia



# Why English Education?

- At work, 1 in 10 US workers are limited in English. In families, 1 in 4 young children in the US are living in an immigrant family, with the majority of parents facing language barriers.
- With more immigrants and their children taking part in the US economy, education, and community, Potencia is working on the mission to solve the language barriers that adult immigrants and refugees face in life and at work.
- In most of the existing ESL programs, tailored learning is very difficult in big classes, and many learners can't participate due to conflicts with their work schedules and long waitlists.



# Our Approach

By training college students as English tutors:



- Learners change the trajectories of their lives and work toward **more options and opportunities**
- They feel welcomed in a new country and boost **confidence**



- Tutors see the world through a different lens and build **leadership** skills
- They feel achieved in **making differences** in their community

# Impact

Potencia is committed to positively impacting 2.5 million limited English populations in the US by 2025.

Here are some key numbers we have reached so far:

**120**

Tutors  
trained

**100**

Learners  
served

**712**

Learning  
hours

94% Brazil  
2% Burundi  
2% China  
2% El Salvador



Where are our learners from?

**96%**

Of our learners reported that they feel more confident in English skills within three months

**83%**

Of our tutors reported that experience at Potencia significantly impacted their leadership skills and cultural understanding

**94%**

Of our tutors choose to continue teaching after completing their first semester

*"I've improved my English at least 70% since joining this program."*

-- Anderson, Potencia learner

*"(Potencia) is an empowering and motivational experience that I will always remember."*

-- Aidan Welsh, Potencia Tufts Tutor

# What's next?

In 2021, with both online and in-person classes, Potencia aims to establish over 30 university chapters across the United States to run 450 classes every week. We will seek businesses partnership and collaborate with other community organizations to scale our impact.

## Chapter Leaders

Creating leadership roles in each university is critical in making a bigger impact. Chapter leaders level up leadership skills and deepen the understanding of their community.

## University Impact

By bringing more universities to join our cause, we hope to provide more opportunities for civic-minded college students to engage with the community and contribute to making a change.

## Web Platform

With the Potencia Web Portal, we will leverage technology to improve our tutor training and progress tracking.



# Thank you, our supporters!

Potencia wouldn't have been possible without the generosity, belief, and guidance from our supporters. We can't mention all the names here, but your support is what makes everything possible.

## Board

Bailey Hu\*

Graduate student, Tufts University

Lana Luo

Technical Program Manager, Amazon Robotics

Catherine Popper

Angel Investor, Launchpad Group

## 2020 Summer Interns

### Marketing & Business

Hitha Ambat

Benjamin Callanan

Nattasiri Hansapinyo

Bijan Harandi\*

Lulu Li

Yiqi Ye

### Curriculum

Amethyst Carpenter

Katie Croland

Ashley M. Negrón

## Pro-bono Legal Services

Burns & Levinson LLP

## Volunteer Designer

Denzel Oduro

## Brazilian Community Outreach

Marllon Faria\*\*

\*Potencia tutor or alum

\*\*Potencia learner



# Tutors of the Year

Each year, Potencia recognizes tutors who made outstanding contributions as tutors of the year. This year, many ESL classes ceased due to COVID-19. At Potencia, more than 50 college students joined us and made through many difficulties to teach online. Therefore, we decided to give this reward to **every tutor who strived to conduct classes to relieve the negative impact of COVID-19.**



## **Tufts University**

Dana Baxter Deena Bhanarai Elettra Conoly Terrell Cornelius Christopher Duyos Jamie Gareh  
Mia Garvin Amos Trinidad Gonzalez Bijan Harandi Brendan Kelleher Jake Lattanzi Sarah Lessin  
Hannah Mascuch Amelia Miller Liana Monderer Elissa Perez Beverly Reyes Talia Smith  
Meg Thode Lucy Tumavicus Murshea Tuor Aidan Welsh Julia Worden Ivian Zhang

## **Northeastern University**

Amber Adelman Chinsanaa Ariunbold Danny Chinn Ashley Cornwell Lara Creighton  
Adriana Da Gama Ruthie Ehrhardt Andrea Gieseman Nikita Goyal Jami Guo Caroline Hughes  
Mridhu Khanna Camila Lamoratta Gretchen Moulton Nicole Page Jay Patel Owen Pease  
Paridhi Rathi Arnav Shah Maria Victoria Alex Wilcox

## **Boston University**

Sabrina Abreu Alejandra Alfaro-Carcoba Mary-Juliet Atang Danielle Coan Shilpi Dey  
Natasha Kailani Guarda Minh Anh Luong Moxie Thompson Nhi Tran

# Contact Us



When you support Potencia, you expand opportunities for immigrants and refugees in our communities and empower future civic leaders to make social changes. Together, we are creating a better future.

## Make a donation

Visit [potenciaus.org/donate](https://www.potenciaus.org/donate) or email [team@potenciaus.org](mailto:team@potenciaus.org) for detailed information on the donation process

## Apply to tutor

<https://www.potenciaus.org/join-us>

## Partner with us

Reach out to learn about more opportunities to support Potencia: [amandawang@potenciaus.org](mailto:amandawang@potenciaus.org)

## Learn more

Visit [www.potenciaus.org](https://www.potenciaus.org)



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*Potencia is currently a program registered under Refugee Immigration Ministry Inc, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.*