



Institute
for
Education

IFE's West Coast Brunch-Compounded Awesomeness!

The Institute for Education celebrated PIFdom on the West Coast on Sunday, January 11th 2015, when it held a brunch hosted by Amy Geng; former White House Chief Technology Officer Todd Park; Microsoft Director of Technology and Civic Innovation John Paul Farmer; and Coach Kathy Kemper at Amy and Todd's stunning Northern California home. PIFdom ruled the day. Amy Geng, IFE's Innovation Steward, invited the Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIFs), their families, and IFE friends for a delicious home-cooked brunch. It was a perfect way to begin the new year—a true PIF Reunion. Round one and two PIFs reflected on their 'tours of duty' in government, elaborated on their new jobs in the private sector, and deliberated on the next necessary steps to bring innovation, collaboration, and efficiency to government, building on their own work in the White House. The Presidential Innovation Fellow Program was founded in 2012 by Todd Park, then US Chief Technology Officer, and John Paul Farmer, then White House Senior Advisor, in order to bring the



country's top innovators to serve in federal government agencies. Now in its third round, the PIF program has moved from The White House into the General Services Administration. Many PIFs have joined the Federal Government permanently to form 18F, an internal digital services consultancy, with offices in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, CA. Now, more than ever, it is important to bring Silicon Valley's leadership and innovation to elected officials and policy makers in Washington. The Institute for Education is excited to be able to connect with PIFs, political leaders, and innovators, on both coasts.

Another highlight of the brunch was hearing Adam Dole, a Round 2 PIF, discuss his recent work developing an app that provides customers with a Personal Health Assistant. Everyone loved seeing Nick Bramble, his wife Katie, and their new baby daughter Adeline—the most recent addition to the PIF family! Other PIF alumni in attendance included Erin Akred, Kara DeFrias, Ian Kalin, Matt McCall, Vidya Spandana, and Scott Wu.



Homemade Chinese dumplings represented another highlight—edible compounded awesomeness !

IFE continued its West Coast visit on Monday, January 12th as James Sanders, Round 2 education PIF, organized a tour and discussion at the Nueva School. Nueva is a student-centered school known for its distinctive inquiry-based interdisciplinary studies, constructivist projected-based learning, and pioneering work in social emotional learning and design thinking (<http://www.nuevaschool.org>). Amy Geng, Coach Kemper, and two IFE fellows/interns accompanied James. Kim Saxe, the Director of the Nueva iLab led us on a tour of their new high school, and the group discussed strategies to increase design thinking in the K12 system. IFE was excited to learn that Nueva recently partnered with KIPP Bay Area schools to bring their model to the underserved communities of the Bay Area. Design Thinking pioneer, David Kelly, was at the school and added much awesomeness to the morning!

The IFE crew continued the day at Google's campus with James hosting a lunch roundtable on STEM and underrepresented populations in fields requiring computer science. We were joined by various members of the Google EDU team including Omoju Miller, who oversees non-profit investment strategy in Computer Science Education.

View: [Event Photos](#)

Contributed by IFE Fellow Chris Golden and IFE Intern Emily Lowell. Photo credit: Chung Park.

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