# SXSW EDU L

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **SXSW EDU® Launch Competition Announces Winner for 2021**

Inspirit Wins Launch Competition

March 10, 2021, AUSTIN, Texas – The SXSW EDU Conference & Festival named <a href="Inspirit">Inspirit</a> the winner of the 2021 SXSW EDU Online Launch competition. Now in its tenth year, the <a href="Launch">Launch</a> competition, presented by the Walton Family Foundation, provides a platform for early-stage startups to pitch leaders across the business, investment and learning sectors, and gain feedback and knowledge about how to take their company to the next stage of growth. The finalists took the virtual stage on Wednesday, March 10 to pitch their innovations to a panel of judges. This year's finalists covered topics from tutoring and storytelling, to instruction and STEM.

Inspirit contains hundreds of interactive 3D science models and environments. They are building a gamified interactive iOS STEM Education VR app (Duolingo meets Minecraft) allowing students to learn processes, experiment, and answer questions. Their labs are also available on the web browser for teachers to share with their students.

Since its inception, many of the startup finalists have gone on to receive millions in funding and impact learning across the country, including Elsa, Clever, Bloomboard, The Whether by Better Weekdays, and Edmit which announced a partnership with SoFi.

"The entire Launch team did an incredible job! From creating a smooth virtual experience to putting together a diverse panel of judges — the entire experience was as good as could be in a virtual environment," said Amrutha Vasan, co-founder of Inspirit. "All the companies are doing incredible work, and I've become friends with some of my 'competitors.' We feel humbled to have won SXSW EDU's Launch competition and strive to continue to try closing the gap in STEM education by building free/low-cost 3D tools that solve students' and teachers' problems....now back to building!"

#### This year's other top finalists are:

<u>Composer</u> // New Orleans, LA \* <u>Everydae</u> // Los Angeles, CA \* <u>FabuLingua</u> // Austin, TX \* <u>PolyUp</u> // Saratoga, CA

To learn more about competitions and how to submit for next year, please go here.

## **About SXSW EDU:**

The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival cultivates and empowers a community of engaged stakeholders to advance teaching and learning. The annual event affords registrants open access to engaging sessions, immersive workshops, interactive learning experiences, film screenings, early-stage startups, business opportunities, and networking. SXSW EDU is a component of the South by Southwest® family of conferences and festivals that has grown from 800 to over 8,000 registrants in the last decade. Join the passionate and innovative community at SXSW EDU Online, March 9-11, 2021. For more information, please visit sxswedu.com.

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