

iGIANT® Roundtable Minutes

June 4, 2019

7:00-8:30 PM

Staenberg-Loup JCC

Denver, Colorado

The 64th iGIANT® roundtable engaged participants from the commercial space sector, business development and faith based communities, entrepreneurs, professional volunteers, behavioral health specialists, clinicians including in pharmacology, students, sports equipment designers, engineers, IT specialists, artists and writers, scientists, military members and retired professionals. The diversity of the iGIANT participants (ambassadors) was reflected in the range of issues raised during the discussion.

Ambassadors discussed how gender stereotypes continue to percolate across communities and cultures which can inhibit innovation and progress especially for careers. Students commented on how they will rise above these obstacles to pursue their professions and demand to have the tools, resources and opportunities provided to ensure their success.

Since the roundtable was held in Colorado, there was a focus on outdoor activities including skiing and snowboarding. Ambassadors mentioned they they either designed or used athletic equipment designed to meet the needs of the female athlete. There was interest in engaging sports designers to ensure that the equipment performed effectively and safely and was not designed for cosmetic appearances. It was mentioned that height is also an issue that needs to be addressed regarding ergonomics as well as the need for precision design which can be achieved through 3-D printing and other technologies.

Social determinants of health and well-being were highlighted including the impact of age and its concomitant association with changes in body habitus including muscle mass (sarcopenia) and fat distribution which can impact vaccine administration as well as drug metabolism.

During the call-to-action component of the roundtable, offers to host roundtables, presentations on gendered innovation as well as sharing of information with friends, family and colleagues were highlighted. The opportunity to network with each other began immediately after the roundtable during the post roundtable reception.

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