BACKGROUND
We are experiencing the early stages of revolutionary transformation in virtually every aspect of human existence: the arrival of personal, additive manufacturing (and impending post-scarcity conditions in some sectors of the economy); spreading social and political unrest and revolution; new tools of personal empowerment; a rebirth of politically active youth movements; the list goes on and on.

By examining these trends one can find certain common characteristics:
1. They are possible only as a result of the accelerating pace of technological development.
2. They are distributive in nature; empowering the weak, connecting the isolated, and giving voice to the disenfranchised.

As metaphorically suggested by Newton's Third Law there are counter-forces at work:
1. We intuitively expect linear change. Despite the documented exponential and even logarithmic pace of technological development, we don't intuit it. This means that we underestimate the pace of change and it's probable impact. When we can no longer casually dismiss emerging technologies, there is an accompanying neo-luddite panic reaction (e.g. fear of Google Glass and Self-Driving Car, or the hysteria surrounding Distributed Defense).

2. These movements, tools, and technologies are usurping the traditional roles (or even eliminating the need for) the various centralized hierarchical institutions and organizations that make up the entrenched power centers of the world today. As a result, these organizations are, unsurprisingly, pushing back as they fight to remain relevant and in power. Of course, this resistance is always couched in terms of safety, security, and stability.

THE PROBLEM
If we live our lives with little thought and no action regarding these emerging trends and their counter forces, we will continually fall victim to history. While the institutional status quo is ultimately doomed in the face of progress, their vain attempts to stem the tide will make life worse for all of us. Likewise, leaving the direction of development in the hands of a techno-elite contributes to social polarization and stratification.
A SOLUTION

disruptEd is a student venture designed to take a step towards resolving the many and complicated issues surrounding these trends. We intend to infect the greater Colgate Community with some sticky and virulent memes. Briefly, this entails an awareness of emerging social trends and the accelerating pace of technological development, as well as the passion needed to steer them.

Colgate possess (in its students, faculty and staff, and alumni) a staggering amount of human capital. The roughly 4,000 strong student body alone has the raw intelligence, drive, passion, and influence to affect real change on a global scale. Much of that capital is spent on trivialities. Upon graduation, much of it is spent in sectors that are oblivious, reactive, or actively opposed to the impending disruptions.

disruptEd has a 3-step plan to shift the Colgate culture in order to harness our potential and shape our future rather than watching it happen around us.

OUR PLAN

Step 1. disruptEd will foster the start and growth of a student organization on campus. This club will act as a magnet, attracting students who are already interested and passionate in any of the areas impacted by the trends and technologies mentioned above. Once formed, this group will not only provide members with intellectual engagement and reinforcement, it will begin outreach activities on campus to spread awareness.

Step 2. disruptEd will facilitate the club's outreach, specifically through publication. There are several possible vehicles currently extant on campus for outreach publication, as well as the possibility for creating something independent. This publication will serve to reach beyond the student body to include the greater Colgate Community. (Imagine something along the lines of a themed Colgate Scene) We will all benefit from education, improved information, and diverse and ongoing conversation about these topics.

Step 3. disruptEd's capstone event. We intend to organize a large conference. We already have a list of over 50 individuals we would like to invite - world class leaders in their fields: from sustainable urban design and additive manufacturing, to cryptocurrency and copyleft. (And many others as well!) Those invited would be asked to give short 'TED-like' presentations, hold workshops, or participate in panel discussions.

Not only will the conference be cool and exciting, but it will offer a number of tangible positive benefits to the entire Colgate Community:
• Making a name for Colgate as not only a great educational institution, but a groundbreaking one that is ahead of the curve (in an age when the higher education industry is rapidly approaching its own disruption).
• Attract even more top-quality students with a desire to improve the world.
• Properly managed, the event itself will generate revenue.
• Strengthen Gate-Town connections with the many local organizations and individuals that would be interested in attending (and possibly presenting).
• By bringing together experts in various fields, students, and alumni this event will concentrate an incredible amount of human capital in a small area for a brief time - this time will prove to be extremely fertile as ideas are exchanged in a cross-disciplinary manner between many bright and motivated individuals.

**THEN WHAT?**
The 3-step plan is not an end to our efforts. While a capstone event, the conference will become the next rung on the ladder (mixing metaphors). Depending on the success of and reaction to the conference several next-steps are possible. It could become a regular event at Colgate, much like Emerge, a yearly event at ASU focusing on the intersection of technology and art. Another option would be 'franchising', that is spreading the disruptEd movement beyond Colgate to other college campuses and beyond. Regardless, the club will continue to operate, stimulating discussion and spreading information to new students long after the completion of the 3-step plan.

If the plan is successful (not in each discrete step, but in the overall goal of shifting the perception of Colgate and the culture on campus) then the impact will be long-lasting, incubating on campus and spreading out into the world with each graduating class.

**CHALLENGES**
We are aware that this is an ambitious plan. As such there are many difficulties yet to be overcome, and possible criticalities. One of the earliest challenges will be developing a critical mass of interest and participation in both the venture and its associated student organization. The primary hurdle will lie in organizing and hosting the conference with the many administrative, logistical, financial, and scheduling requirements that we expect.

While we currently envision the 3-step plan, it is possible to adapt and scale our plan - up or down - and still meet our broad goals. The current plan could in fact be entirely scrapped in favor of something new. Like most startup ventures, we will remain flexible and adaptive while staying true to our purpose and guiding principles.