

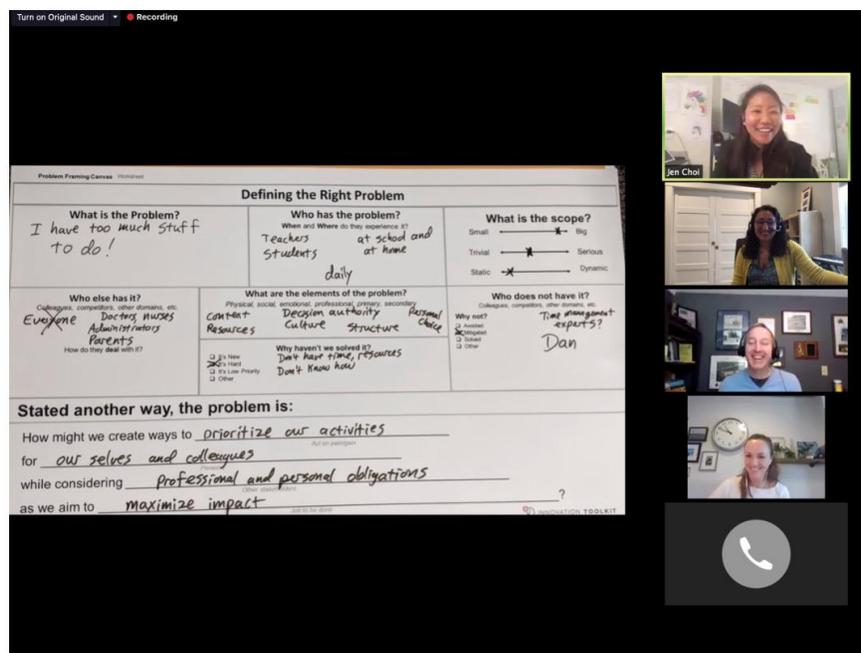
Democratizing Innovation through ITK Workshops

Bridging Innovation frequently partners with [MITRE's Innovation Toolkit](#) (ITK) team – also known as “Team Toolkit” – to train our employees, government sponsors, and startups learn how to be innovative and jumpstart the innovation process. Using the user-centered methods in the ITK will help teams to ask and answer the right questions, build consensus around the problem they're trying to solve, and design the right thing.

The ITK is a curated collection of tools to empower us to think and work more like innovators. The Toolkit is made up of 25 lightweight, low-cost, high-impact methods and templates that get everyone innovating, regardless of their domain. All tools come with a template and description of how to use it on the website. The tools are [organized into use cases](#) on the ITK website.

In July, Rachel Gregorio, from Team Toolkit, introduced the ITK to the [MassChallenge Texas](#) cohort. She provided the startups with some suggested tools that they can apply to some typical use cases, such as using [Premortem](#) to plan ahead and assess risks, [Rose, Bud, Thorn](#) to capture rapid feedback from users, and [Mission Vision Canvas](#) to define where their company is going.

Also in July, Team Toolkit hosted a virtual Challenge Statement training for members of the [Banshee program](#), a 2-week innovation training program run by Hanscom Air Force Base and MassChallenge for Air Force and Army acquisition programs. Using 3 tools from the ITK, Jen Choi, Rachel Gregorio, Marissa McCoy, and Dan Ward led 60 program participants through a tool chain – where the output of one tool leads to the input of the next tool – to develop challenge statements releasable and generalized for industry.



Team Toolkit leading a virtual session using the Problem Framing tool

Team Toolkit started by explaining the [Lotus Blossom](#), a divergent ideation tool, before converging around their favorite ideas using the [Stormdraining](#) tool. Next, the participants walked through the [Problem Framing](#) tool to reframe and refine their problem statement. Taking the final outputs from the tool chain, they were encouraged to further generalize the statement, line-by-line, to ensure it removed acronyms, jargon, and specificity to mission.

Participants in the Banshee program learned powerful methodologies and easy to use tools to shape their problems and solution needs in clear and concise language without being prescriptive in the implementation. This approach opens the door for finding game changing innovative solutions

If you're interested in working with Team Toolkit, feel free to reach out to the team at itk@mitre.org and [subscribe to their newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date on all things innovation!

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