

THE POWER GRADIENT

Inspiring Future Entrepreneurs

Beyond The Stars Education

A non-profit organisation dedicated to making science accessible to students with disabilities by integrating space related tools and hands-on learning inspired by NASA and other global space agencies

www.DorinaGirbovan.com

Key Takeaways

Mission-Driven Impact

Beyond The Stars Education is dedicated to making STEM and space education accessible to Romanian students with disabilities, with a focus on inclusion and empowerment.

Barrier-Breaking Approach

Despite limited resources, the organisation has successfully helped Romanian students attend the SCIVIS Space Camp, overcoming major financial and bureaucratic obstacles.

Entrepreneurial Lessons

The journey highlights the importance of acting on passion, embracing failure, building strong networks, and leading with persistence and heart.

Global Outreach

The organisation continues to grow through international collaborations, awareness campaigns, and educator training all grounded in the belief that no dream is out of reach.



Connect with Dorina Girbovan:

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Meet Dorina Girbovan

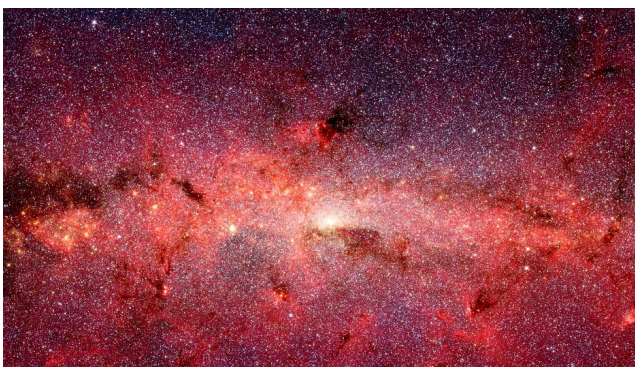
Welcome to this week's edition of The Power Gradient. In this issue, I'm excited to share the inspiring story of Dorina Girbovan, a passionate science educator, International Space Ambassador, and founder of Beyond the Stars Education Association. This non-profit organisation is pioneering a movement to make space and STEM education accessible to all Romanian students, especially those with disabilities. Dorina's mission is deeply personal and driven by purpose: to open doors for students often left on the margins, and to provide them with the tools, support, and global connections they need to thrive. Through mentorship, training, and international opportunities, her organisation is creating a future where inclusion and innovation go hand in hand.

Bridging Space and Accessibility

Dorina's path shifted dramatically in 2016 when she was selected as one of a small number of educators worldwide to attend NASA's HESA training at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. There, she encountered a life-changing presentation about the SCIVIS program a Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students. A single image of a blind student leaping into the air from a pole, fully harnessed, sparked both admiration and a powerful sense of responsibility. She was shocked to learn that despite the program offering international scholarships, not one visually impaired student from Romania had ever attended. This realisation catalysed something deep within her. Dorina returned home determined to change that reality, and from that moment, her mission to bridge space education and accessibility was born.

More than Vision

From the beginning, Dorina knew this journey would demand more than vision it would require endurance, creativity, and sacrifice. Without funding or institutional support, she invested her own resources to send the first Romanian students to SCIVIS. Organising the logistics was a challenge: passport applications, medical exams, embassy interviews, and notarised paperwork all of which came with significant costs and bureaucratic barriers. But Dorina persevered, and the transformation she witnessed in the students made every hurdle worth it. Their renewed confidence and curiosity inspired local communities and drew support from donors and volunteers. Over time, Beyond the Stars Education grew into a structured, sustainable NGO with an ambitious vision: to support eight Romanian visually impaired students per year by 2030, train inclusive educators, and design accessible science education tools tailored to their needs.



Heart and Tenacity

Her journey offers powerful lessons for anyone starting their entrepreneurial path. Her core message is simple- "Be driven by passion, defined by change, and let the world feel your light". She believes success is not about having everything figured out from the start, it's about showing up with courage and staying committed, even when progress is slow and setbacks arise. Dorina candidly shares that one of her biggest regrets was waiting too long to officially launch her NGO. That experience taught her the importance of acting on purpose without hesitation. Today, she encourages aspiring change makers to build strong networks, embrace failure as part of growth, and never underestimate the ripple effect of one bold idea pursued with heart and tenacity.

A Mission That Reaches Beyond the Stars

For Dorina, Beyond the Stars Education has been far more than an NGO, it has become a lifelong commitment to reshaping what's possible in education and beyond. Every year, as more visually impaired students return from Space Camp with newfound confidence and ambition, Dorina sees the proof that inclusive education has the power to transform not just individuals, but entire communities. She is now expanding her efforts to include international awareness campaigns, educator workshops, and the development of accessible curricula. Her mission is grounded in the belief that no dream is out of reach and no student should be left behind because of their abilities. Her guiding philosophy "Be the change that you want to see in this world", is a reminder that with enough purpose, even the stars are within reach.