

## Ideologically Diverse Education Leaders Announce Shared Transformational Vision for Education

Leaders launch a new initiative to support a growing learner-centered movement

**Washington, DC (September 29)**—Out of a sustained dialogue process led by national non-profit Convergence, a remarkably ideologically diverse group of education practitioners and leaders has united behind a transformational vision for the future of learning—a vision with the learner at the center—and committed themselves to making learner-centered education available to all children in America.

For the past two years, this group of 28, including the presidents of the two largest teacher unions, leading advocates for charter schools, technology entrepreneurs, teachers, principals, and superintendents, education school leaders and foundation officers, worked intensively on a new vision for education. They came together despite sharp disagreements about what is wrong with the current education system and how to fix it. What they did share was a fundamental commitment for all children to love learning and thrive regardless of their circumstances. Once they began talking, they quickly realized it was time to stop debating how to fix the old system and to start imagining a new one.

The vision they created is not a mandate or a blueprint. It offers a direction for change that is both a challenge and an invitation to transform rather than reform the system. The vision reaffirms the core purposes of education—to enable all children to realize their potential as citizens, participants in the economy, and life-long learners. It broadens the focus of learning beyond traditional academic subjects to include skills and dispositions essential for life-long success. It calls for a profound transformation of the education system to put learners at the center. It calls on all stakeholders in our children’s learning—all of us—to provide the supports and connections to the community and the world that are necessary to enable all children to reach their potential.

There are already hundreds of pioneers across the country answering this call. They are hard at work creating learning environments that meet all children where they are and enable them to reach their full potential. They are the vanguard of an emerging learner-centered education movement.

Collectively, the vision creators seek to amplify and accelerate the growth of this movement. To support this work, they have come together to launch Education Reimagined, an initiative of Convergence, and serve as its Advisory Board. Education Reimagined, partnering with others, is creating spaces for pioneers—practitioners, parents, learners, community members, policymakers, business, union and network leaders, and funders—to connect, share, learn, and create together and to reshape the public conversation on education.

“We are committed to bringing every student an educational experience that opens their eyes to the infinite possibilities of their lives. This vision offers a future worthy of that work. It’s a minor miracle that such passionately diverse advocates set aside well-worn, if well-meaning, arguments to focus in a new way on serving the whole child, knowing that that whole child, well-served, will become a whole adult, ready to take on life’s challenges, responsibilities, and joys”, says Lily Eskelsen-García, vision signatory and President of the National Education Association.

“Continuing to tweak the current model of education is a little like trying to tweak the model-T engine to fly us to the moon. It is time for us to build the rocketship—using what we now know about brain science, technology, innovation, and the 21st century emphasis on collaboration rather than competition. It is time to set aside the past debates and blame games and come together to transform our system to meet the needs of each and every child in America,” says Gisèle Huff, Education Reimagined Advisory Board member and Executive Director of the Jaquelin Hume Foundation.

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### **About Education Reimagined**

Education Reimagined seeks to accelerate the growth of the learner-centered education movement dedicated to transforming education in America by identifying, connecting, amplifying, and empowering pioneers and contributing to a new public conversation. We invite those excited and interested by the possibility of learner-centered education to discover more, join a growing movement, and begin a journey to make this a reality in diverse communities across the country.

Visit our website at [www.education-reimagined.com](http://www.education-reimagined.com) and follow the movement on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Education Reimagined is an initiative of Convergence.

### **About Convergence**

**Convergence** is a national non-profit that convenes people and groups with conflicting views to build trust, identify solutions, and form alliances for action on critical national issues. It hosts projects on a broad range of issues, such as education, long-term care financing, poverty and economic mobility, and nutrition and wellness. It achieves outcomes through structured, facilitated dialogue and long-term relationship building, shifting the focus from winning the debate to collectively seeking solutions.

Visit their website at [www.convergencepolicy.org](http://www.convergencepolicy.org) and follow them on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).