

pioneering

ISSUE 7 • FEBRUARY 11, 2016 • EDUCATION REIMAGINED

A NOTE FROM EDUCATION REIMAGINED

Kelly Young, Director

REMAKE LEARNING

Profile of their Learning Effort
LRNG Cities Movement Expands

LEARNER VOICES

Let's hear from learners who
follow their passions

FROM THE VISION

SXSWEDU 2016

TOOLS & RESOURCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

ON OUR BOOKSHELF

WORTH YOUR TIME

JOB BOARD

education 
reimagined

• connect. share. discover. lead. • pioneering

Dear Friends,

Recently, we've been reminded of the importance of sharing the theory of change that we and pioneers have embraced or are intuitively adopting. There is growing excitement about learner-centered environments around the country—like Lindsay USD, Iowa BIG, Big Thought, Summit PS, and Big Picture Learning. And, with the new ESSA, states are beginning to grapple with how to enable districts to transform. So, people are wondering: How do you help learner-centered education scale?

A pioneer would say that we can't think of scale in the same way that we have in the past. It can't be about creating a single model and inserting it into new places. It must be about enabling people to transform their own communities.

Almost without exception, pioneers already on this journey started by engaging their communities in inquiries about the outcomes they wanted for kids, the world their kids are entering, and whether our current education system is designed to deliver what kids need now and in the future. As they authentically grapple with these questions, they almost inevitably arrive at the same conclusion: the current system's design and the needs of today's children are mismatched. It is time for something new—the transformation of the education system to one with the learner at the center.

These pioneers then start on a journey to bring this transformation to life. Engaging the diverse stakeholders—educators, parents, administrators, boards of education, community resources, and the learners themselves—they begin creating and iterating learning environments that fit their particular learners' needs and community's circumstances.

While this process doesn't answer the question of how to enable learner-centered pioneers directly, the choice to start their journey with the community as a whole exemplifies a few beliefs about the theory of change:

- Transformation cannot be done to or for people; it must be done by and with people.
- Complex systems change demands partnership and collaboration across diverse stakeholders over time.
- Inventing out of our traditional system toward a new one requires high levels of trust among all of the stakeholders involved.

Even though the solution is locally developed, you don't have to make the journey alone. Luckily, there are already organizations and people out there who have internalized the guiding principles above and are ready to help, support, and champion those doing the work. To name a few—Big Picture Learning, Summit Basecamp, KnowledgeWorks, The Learning Accelerator, Innovation Lab Network, Transcend, 2Revolutions, and Student Experience Lab.

We are excited to play our part!

Kelly Young



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Connect. Share. Discover. Lead.

We seek to accelerate the growth of the movement dedicated to transforming education in America. 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.





FROM THE VISION

Components of a Learner-Centered Education System—Spaces & Networks

REIMAGINED SPACES FOR LEARNING, whether they are in education centers, libraries, museums, community centers, or other locations, provide learners and the supporting adults with a physical space to gather, play, socialize, and learn. They give learners the opportunity to engage with each other, their educators, their families, and community members seeking to support their growth. Reimagining the way these spaces are organized and where they are located provides opportunities to integrate learning experiences for children into the community. They bring health and social services and community-based activities more directly into the daily fabric of learning, when needed. Learning spaces also offer appropriate custodial care to learners, particularly younger ones.

A COORDINATED NETWORK OF INSTITUTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS AND FEDERATIONS, AND BUSINESSES offers open-walled, relevant, and contextualized learning resources and opportunities to learners and creates avenues for learners to be involved in and engage with the community. Additionally, this network promotes collaboration and communication amongst entities working to support learners' health, nutrition, safety, and wellbeing.

learning environments
factories
learning ecosystems
ZOOS
parks
healthcare centers
pools
art galleries
hubs
playgrounds
wildlife reserves
makerspaces
rec centers
theaters
labs
libraries
businesses
gyms
museums

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars! We will be speaking at some and hosting workshops at others. In all cases, pioneers will be front and center! Join us.

Mid-Atlantic Conference on Personalized Learning

Keynote

Baltimore, MD

Feb. 29-Mar. 2

[Conference Website](#)

SXSWedu

Panel & Summit

Austin, TX

Mar 7-11

Remake Learning Days

Pittsburgh, PA

May 9-15

Remake Learning Days is a full week of events and activities that celebrates educational innovation in southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Make March 8th at SXSWedu Learner-Centered Day

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

11:00AM - 12:00PM

PANEL • REIMAGINE EDUCATION: ABANDONING AGE-BASED LEARNING

Hilton Austin Downtown Salon E

Roger Cook, Taylor County Schools

Dr. Marina Walne, EduStart LLC

Stephan Turnipseed, Destination Imagination

BOOK SIGNING WITH ROGER COOK

3:00PM - 6:00PM

SUMMIT • TRANSFORMING EDUCATION WITH LEARNERS AT THE CENTER

JW Marriott Salon 3

Kelly Young, Education Reimagined

Virgel Hammonds, KnowledgeWorks

Trace Pickering, Iowa BIG

Margaret Black, Big Thought

Michael Hinojosa, Dallas Independent School District

6:30PM - 8:30PM

EDUCATION REIMAGINED'S TEXAS-STYLE COCKTAIL PARTY

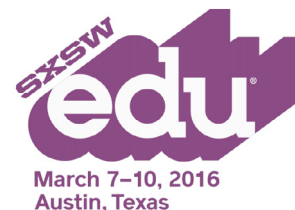
CO-HOSTED WITH NEXT GENERATION LEARNING CHALLENGES

Cedar Door, right across the street from the JW Marriott

We are so excited to be joined by these
fabulous pioneers for our SXSWedu events!

For our morning panel, we have Superintendent Roger Cook, whose leadership, since 2009, has brought Taylor County SD to the forefront of the learner-centered movement, and Marina Walne who, in addition to her work with EduStart, serves on the board of one of the leading blended learning organizations—The Learning Accelerator. To top off this impressive panel, we have Stephan Turnipseed, a life-long advocate for all kids and a signatory of our vision—who has recently brought his reach and passion to Destination Imagination.

We're joined in the afternoon by four more heavy-hitters. Virgel Hammonds, now with KnowledgeWorks, brings extensive learner-centered experience from his time as a principal at Lindsay USD in CA and as Superintendent of RSU2 in ME. Another pioneering systems-thinker, Trace Pickering comes from the creative corridor of Iowa, where he co-founded and co-leads Iowa BIG. Third on the panel, Margaret Black hails from Dallas, TX, where she leads Big Thought in creating open-walled learning experiences available to all Dallas kids. Another face from Dallas, Superintendent Michael Hinojosa—a vision signatory—joins us from Dallas ISD, where he is leading the district toward learner-centered education.



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via Twitter [@SXSWedu](https://twitter.com/SXSWedu)

SXSWedu KEYNOTES

MONDAY

Helping Different
Kinds of Minds Solve
Problems

Temple Grandin

Austin Convention Center
Ballroom D

11:00AM - 12:00PM

TUESDAY

The Role of Maker Ed
in Schools

Ayah Bdeir

Austin Convention Center
Ballroom D

9:30AM - 10:30AM

WEDNESDAY

How to Think
(and Learn)
Like a Futurist

Jane McGonigal

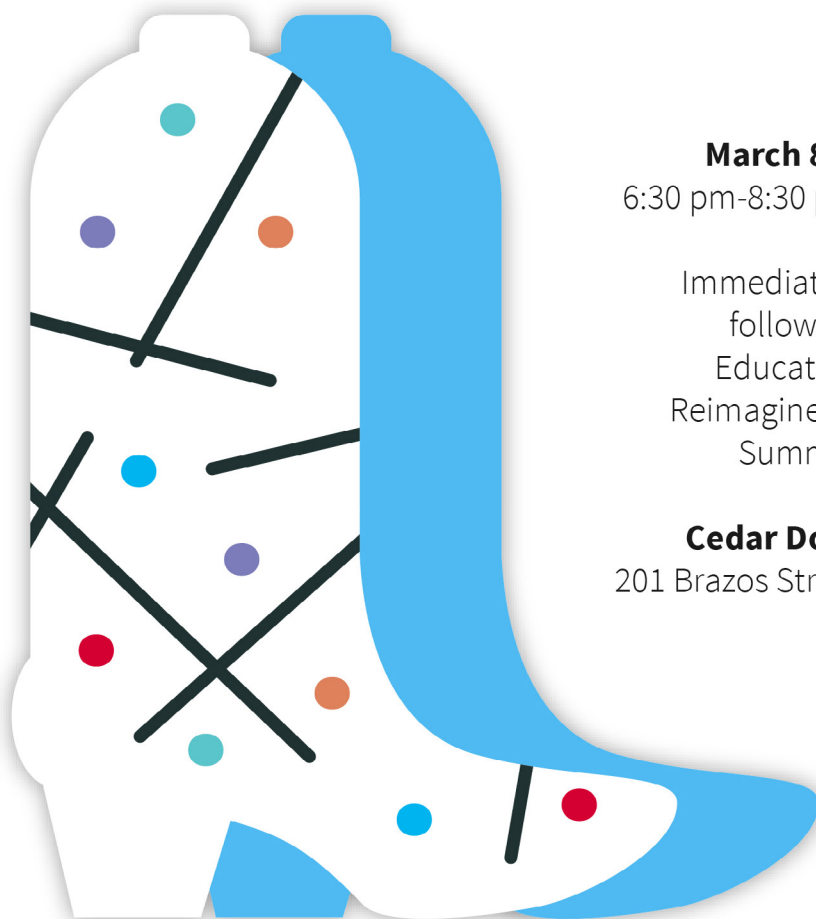
Austin Convention Center
Ballroom D

9:30AM - 10:30AM

KICK BACK & JOIN US FOR A TEXAS-STYLE COCKTAIL PARTY!



NEXT GENERATION
LEARNING CHALLENGES



March 8th

6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Immediately
following
Education
Reimagined's
Summit!

Cedar Door

201 Brazos Street

@EdReimagined

@NextGenLC

The party got bigger! We are excited to be co-hosting with Next Generation Learning Challenges. It's sure to be an awesome, not-to-be-missed, get-together.

RSVP

SXSWEDU 2016 CLOSING PROGRAM JUST ANNOUNCED, AND THE FOCUS IS LEARNER-CENTERED!

From the learner, to the institution, to the greater community, the closing program for SXSWedu 2016 will feature a series of talks from insightful voices at the forefront of the ongoing redesign of learning to be more learner focused, engaging, and effective.

Opening Remarks

Paul Reville

Harvard Graduate
School of Education
12:30pm - 12:45pm

The End of Average

Todd Rose

Center for Individual
Opportunity
12:45pm - 1:15pm

Rethinking High School—Activating Innovation

Russlynn Ali

XQ Institute
1:15pm - 1:45pm

Learning as a Lifestyle: Passion, People, Purpose

Connie Yowell

Collective Shift/LRNG
1:45pm - 2:15pm



REMAKE LEARNING

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



It's about meeting today's kids where they are, not where we want them to be. —Gregg Behr, Executive Director, The Grable Foundation

COME ONE, COME ALL—kids, tweens, teens, makers and tinkerers, creatives, designers, and digital tech fans! Thanks to the Remake Learning Network in museums, labs, libraries, parks, community centers, schools, and online—learning is happening everywhere, all the time in Pittsburgh.

In 2007, a diverse group of Pittsburgh's educators, funders, academics, and citizens gathered to exchange ideas and look for novel ways to build up the region's learning ecosystem. They envisioned a living, learning community—alive with creativity and opportunity. They wanted to nurture and celebrate imaginative thinking, curiosity, and exploration for all children. What they sought was a 21st century model of creativity, collaboration, and community. Learners in the Pittsburgh region now have a ton of ways to pursue their curiosities, challenge themselves, and deepen their learning experiences both inside and outside the walls of school. And best of all—these experiences count!

From the beginning, this forward-thinking group of engaged citizens saw that learning does not stop when a kid leaves the school building—the playground for education spans the entire community. This demands a network of **open-walled** experiences, creating a comprehensive, citywide learning ecosystem. How do you do this? One way is to use digital badges to recognize deeper learning.

This “badging” is now an important piece of Remake Learning. A rigorous **competency-based** system issues badges when learners can demonstrate that a particular set of **knowledge, skills, and dispositions** have been achieved. The Remake Learning Competencies, developed through the active engagement of more than 100 local subject matter experts, informal and formal educators, youth workers, and program managers, form the foundation of learning pathways that connect learners to the opportunities offered by schools, afterschool programs, cultural organizations, and online learning resources.

These bountiful opportunities and badges are designed to delight, enrich, and inspire learners—setting them up to be lifelong learners who thrive in school, college, and the workforce. With millions of dollars invested, thousands of children engaged, and hundreds of practitioners leading dozens of projects, Remake Learning is yielding tangible results for children and youth in communities throughout the region.

This growing, living, open learning system is part of a growing movement across the country to reimagine and remake learning—inspiring others to look at their communities with new lenses and see a world of opportunities right in their own backyards.

LEARN MORE

[Remake Learning Playbook](#)

[Infusing a Neighborhood with Science and Creativity](#)

[Making Noise at the Library](#)

[Transforming a School District, One Classroom at a Time](#)

[A Playground for Teachers: Turning Teacher PD on its Head](#)

FACTS & FIGURES

[Remake Learning Network](#)
Formerly Kids+Creativity,
inception in 2007

[Hive Learning Network](#)
Since 2013

[City of Learning](#)
Summer 2014

Number of schools: 40+ districts
in Pittsburgh and the surrounding
communities of Southwestern
PA & West Virginia

Number of participating
organizations: 250+

CONNECT

Website
remakelearning.org

Facebook Page
[Remake Learning](#)

Twitter
[@remakelearning](#)

For more information contact:
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Innovation Strategist
sunanna@remakelearning.org



CONNECTED LEARNING

OUR APPROACH



LRNG Cities movement expands to ignite everywhere, all-the-time learning

IMAGINE THE CITY AS A CAMPUS where every young person can find and access engaging learning opportunities in spaces and places throughout the community, from schools to libraries and museums to workplace internships and online.

That's the vision of LRNG Cities, now in Chicago, Dallas, Pittsburgh, and Washington, DC—and soon to grow by up to six additional communities. Cities have until February 19 to apply to the [2016 LRNG City Challenge](#) to win up to \$50,000 in funding from the [Fossil Foundation](#) to become an LRNG City.

LRNG is an innovative, youth-centric movement that turns learning into a lifestyle, enabling young people to co-design their own learning experiences, pursue their passions, connect with peers and mentors, and find new paths to 21st century opportunity and jobs.

Using a technology platform to connect partnerships and learning opportunities both locally and globally, LRNG is working to close the nation's opportunity gap by delivering immediate, transformative change to teens and young adults who are locked out of traditional paths to success.

THE POWER OF PLAYLISTS

Playlists are a key component of LRNG. These curated collections of learning experiences are organized around a theme or interest, while embedding 21st century competencies and skills. Playlists encourage interest-driven exploration as well as “leveling up” to increasingly more complex learning and workforce skills.

Through the LRNG platform, young people can access two types of Playlists: global and local. Global playlists are co-designed by LRNG with corporate and nonprofit partners—such as EA, Gap, and WeDay—and offered nationwide to youth in LRNG Cities. These global playlists combine partners’ real-world expertise and LRNG’s learning science.

LRNG also provides an online Playlist and Badge Builders to help LRNG Cities create local Playlists that incorporate learning experiences throughout community.

Youth who complete LRNG Playlists earn digital badges, which they can use to create a permanent, shareable portfolio of their work—so they can take their learning wherever they go. Playlist badges can also be used to unlock opportunities such as job shadowing or internships.

CONNECTED LEARNING

LRNG is grounded in Connected Learning, a new pedagogy that emerged from a decade of research and demonstration projects supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s Digital Media & Learning (DML) program. Connected Learning is realized when young people are engaged across three key areas of their lives: their passions, people, and purpose.

When youth can pursue a personal interest with support of friends and caring adults, then link their learning to real-world applications of their talents and skills, learning becomes relevant and engaging. In an era where [60 percent of high school students are disengaged](#), [only 9 percent of 24-year-olds from low-income families hold college degrees](#), and [nearly 1 in 4 young people ages 18-29 are civically alienated](#), Connected Learning creates interest-driven paths to higher education, career opportunities, and civic engagement.

A GROWING MOVEMENT

Launched in Chicago in 2013 as a demonstration project under the MacArthur DML program, LRNG Cities (then called Cities of Learning) expanded nationwide to Dallas, Pittsburgh, and Washington, DC and inspired a Summer of Learning in Los Angeles in 2014. The pilot LRNG Cities have served about 100,000 young people nationwide per year.

Now, LRNG Cities is poised to expand this summer and beyond, with a goal of serving 1 million youth in 2017. Winners of the [2016 City Challenge](#) will be announced in March, but LRNG will continue to add cities through rolling admissions as it scales up nationwide.

Today, there are millions of young people who can’t see a path forward to the American dream. LRNG recognizes that closing the opportunity gap is a challenge that is too large and complex for any one organization or institution to tackle alone. LRNG provides the technology and the inspiration to propel and sustain the movement, but it will take will take employers, educators, and communities working together to reimagine education and create a new future where all young people have the opportunity to develop their full potential.

If LRNG represents the future of learning you want to see in your city, the 2016 City Challenge is the place to start.

Questions? Watch an onboarding webinar, email us at info@lrng.org, or drop into our online office hours on Friday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon PST.



LEARNER VOICES

Check out the articles and videos below. They might just challenge your assumptions of what kids are capable of creating and doing if we let go of the current Industrial-era paradigm and move towards learner-centered education.



Images courtesy of Sarah O'Rourke/Autodesk

FROM GOOD

Kids Design Their Own Prosthetics in 'Superhero Cyborgs' Workshop

10-year-old Jordan Reeves has a prosthetic unlike any other: a five-nozzle glitter shooter for her arm. At Bay area-based KIDmob's Project Superhero, they are inspiring kids like Jordan and others to imagine and build their own "superpowers" through personalized wearable devices. [Read here](#)

FROM FUSION

This amazing girl mastered dubstep dancing by just using YouTube

Learning dubstep dancing...through YouTube? This is exactly what 12-year-old Adilyn Malcolm did. Part of Fusion's Webucation series, this video is one of many showcasing the stories of young people who have harnessed the power of the web to master amazing skills at their own pace. [Watch here](#)

FROM MINDSHIFT

Students Tell All: What It's Like to Be Trusted Partners in Learning

Learners at Science Leadership Academy in Philadelphia talk about what it's like to be in charge of your own learning. [Read here](#)

FROM DOUBLEACS NEWS

Student Uses His Class to Make a Difference for the Environment

[Watch here](#)

"It's good to find things out for yourself, to come up with your own questions about things you're wondering about."

Nomi Martin-Brouillette
MINDSHIFT



TOOLS & RESOURCES

Transcend

Transcend ([link](#)) is a national non-profit that partners with environments and educators to develop and spread innovative models of learner-centered education. Transcend does not have a standard formula for its partnerships; instead, it advocates for “eight great leaps” from our current system of education to new models. These leaps take into account the demands of a new model of education and include aspects such as parents’ and students’ roles, the use of technology, and the structure of the school community. Transcend provides its partners with R&D tools to design and develop innovative models based on their eight principles. It then works with them to codify these models so they can be adapted and scaled to other environments. Some of Transcend’s current partners include Achievement First’s Greenfield Schools (Transcend’s prototype partnership) and Always Be Learning—and it is on the search for more! From the thought paper that launched Transcend—*Dissatisfied Yet Optimistic*—to videos and articles that inspire the Transcend team themselves, there is plenty to explore in Transcend’s archives.

Dissatisfied Yet Optimistic: Moving Faster Toward New School Models ([link](#))

Interested in getting involved with Transcend? [Click here.](#)

Share Fair Nation

Share Fair Nation ([link](#)) is an independent, non-profit organization that “brings inspiring professional development by educators for educators.” They are dedicated to fostering creativity, innovation, and access to emerging technologies, practices, and high-quality STEM education. The non-profit evolved out of Share Fair events hosted by Morgridge Family Foundation President and Vice President John and Carrie Morgridge. Since 2009, Share Fair events have attracted over 6,000 educators—equipping them with new skills and ideas to transform their learning environments. Launched as a non-profit in 2015, Share Fair Nation prepares educators through Classroom Intensives (CIs)—interactive and thought-provoking professional development workshops that promote innovation and are rooted in best practices. Facilitated by leading educators, CIs cover many topics, from the use of virtual reality in STEM education to Problem-Based Learning immersion, and are hosted in cities across the nation. Share Fair Nation also hosts STEMosphere—a “hands-on, brains-on” expo that connects learners of all ages to STEM fields. With topics ranging from coding and robotics to innovative uses of digital technologies to enhance learning—Share Fair Nation brings exciting programs to educators across the country. They are building out their 2016 event calendar now—see if they are hosting one near you or contact them directly to discuss programs tailored to your professional development needs.

Share Fair Nation Events ([link](#))

JOB BOARD

Job opening to share with the learner-centered community? Send any job descriptions [here](#), and we will include it in the next three issues.

• • • •

The **American Alliance of Museums** is recruiting applicants for the two-year Ford W. Bell Fellowship for Museums & P-12 Education. Deadline for submission is Monday, March 14, 2016. More information on the Fellowship and the application process is available [here](#).

The **Khan Lab School** is an independent lab school located in Mountain View, CA. Many of the core principles and ideas being developed and tested in the school are outlined in Salman Khan’s book *The One World Schoolhouse: Education Reimagined*.

[Lead Teacher English/Humanities](#)

[Lead Teacher STEM](#)

[Lead Teacher Elementary](#)

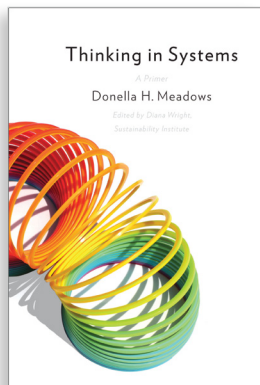
[Associate Teacher](#)

City Neighbors Foundation is seeking **two new school leaders** beginning 2016-17. Full job description available [here](#).

The **K-12 OER Collaborative** is seeking a **Quality Assurance Director, Middle School Mathematics**. Full job description available [here](#).

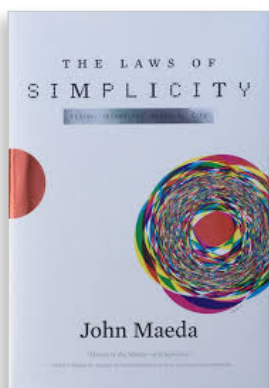


ON OUR BOOKSHELF



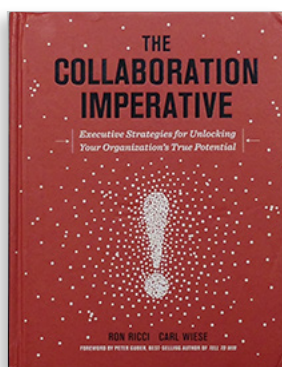
Thinking in Systems: A Primer by Donella H. Meadows

Inspired by the realm of computers and equations, Donella H. Meadows' *Thinking in Systems* shows us how to use systems-thinking skills to effect positive change in the 21st century. Meadows leverages her experience as a scientist, teacher, author, and farmer to offer insights for problem-solving on issues ranging from personal to global. She echoes the case for education transformation in her emphasis on broad, system-level thinking rather than isolated problem-solving. Greater than her methodology, though, Meadows reminds us to pay attention to what is most important—to stay humble and remain a learner.



The Laws of Simplicity: Design, Technology, Business, Life by John Maeda

John Maeda believes that “simplicity equals sanity.” In *The Laws of Simplicity*, Maeda describes 10 laws for balancing simplicity and complexity and shows us how to use less to get more. Calling on examples such as the iPod and Google, he demonstrates that, more often than not, simple is powerful. Maeda reminds us that improvement doesn't always mean adding more and culminates his guide with Law 10: “Simplicity is about subtracting the obvious, and adding the meaningful.” For the educator, these laws can serve as a tool to design and improve elegant, impactful learning experiences.



The Collaboration Imperative: Executive Strategies for Unlocking Your Organization's True Potential by Ron Ricci and Carl Wiese

Cisco executives Ron Ricci and Carl Wiese's *The Collaboration Imperative* shares how to unleash hidden potential by inspiring collaboration. Featuring case studies from organizations like Duke University and General Electric, the authors suggest actionable strategies to encourage collaboration and to develop tools and technology to augment its effects. Adapted for learning environments, educators can use these strategies to create a culture of collaboration that will enhance the learner experience.

WORTH YOUR TIME

Personalizing Education Advocacy to Personalize Learning

If our goal is to reimagine education, why can't we reimagine education advocacy? What if we no longer relied on traditional methods of advocacy but, instead, empowered and supported communities and those on the ground to create change. [Read here...](#)

Student Profile: Portfolio Defense

At Envision Education, everything a learner does leads to their “portfolio defense”—a competency-based assessment modeled after a thesis defense. Watch as one learner, Yvonne, defends her portfolio and demonstrates the skills and knowledge that will make her a successful life-long learner. [Read here...](#)

In Search of On-ramps to Competency-based Learning

It's often hard for pioneers to recognize which innovations are truly transformative and which just build on top of what already exists. Profiled are four education trends that could provide avenues to transformative, competency-based educational spaces.

[Read here...](#)

“The hardest part of learning something new is not embracing new ideas, but letting go of old ones.”

—TODD ROSE, *The End of Average*

Read past issues of
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