



POWER *of* PLACE

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As 2024 approaches, I want to thank you all for investing in the Essex County Learning Community and embracing our new non-profit, Power of Place Learning Communities. It is our privilege to work with educators every day to design and implement learning experiences that are rigorous, relevant, relational, and rejuvenating. We know that adults, like students, deserve to grow and develop as professionals - and as people. We also know that when educators get what they need, students prosper.

Our commitment to adult learning drives our annual **ECLC Learning Agenda**, and this year has inspired us to pursue more in-district, customized engagement with our communities. The most recent examples started in Lynnfield and Andover.

This Fall the Lynnfield Public Schools expressed interest in building the capacity of their paraprofessionals to support issues related to student behavior, mental health and resilience. Because of our commitment to cross-district collaboration, we asked them to recruit at least two other districts, and Hamilton-Wenham and Wakefield agreed to participate. We reached out to our partners at the **Program in Education and Resiliency**, who have agreed to offer five virtual learning sessions this year, with face-to-face sessions in between led by in-district facilitators. Forty paraprofessionals attended the first session with enthusiasm.

Also this year we heard from the Andover schools, where the social work department is seeking to build more equitable mental health practices districtwide. Working together we co-designed a learning series featuring psychologist, scholar, and author **Maureen Walker**, who will conduct five workshops during the school year. These will be augmented by additional sessions, led by the ECLC team, on data and root cause analysis. As a single district, Andover is contracting directly with Power of Place/ECLC on a fee-for-service basis.

We pride ourselves in knowing the educational landscape well and identifying the right, highest-quality match for the needs of our member communities. We vet our guest faculty carefully, and only partner with those who are aligned with our commitment to creating learning environments that are relational, inspiring, and collaborative.

In 2024 we hope to do even more of this in-district work, and urge you to knock on our door to discuss what you need. Working together, we will find a way to make it happen.

In the meantime, enjoy the well-deserved rest next week, and happy holidays!

With warmth and appreciation,

Jane

Announcing: Exploratory Mini-Grant Recipients!

This fall, ECLC issued an RFP inviting educators across our member districts to submit proposals for projects focused on student and adult learning and development. We are thrilled to announce the winners of the Fall 2023 grant cycle. Below, they describe the work they will begin in the new year. A critical component of each project will be the dissemination of their learning via webinar, live event, or artifacts of their experiences, to all of you: their learning community peers!

Check back in the New Year for information about participating in these experiences, and stay tuned for our Spring 2024 RFP!

Counselor & Community Connections: *GHS School Counselor Outreach*



The Gloucester High School School Counseling team is excited to bring some new opportunities for connection with our students and community throughout the spring. The Gloucester School Counseling team is looking forward to hosting events for students and families around wellness, post secondary planning, and community outreach. Our goal is to provide casual, accessible psychoeducational and rapport building activities that will promote student wellness and engagement. Events we are excited to kick off for the spring include wellness weeks, coffee and connections with parents, and outreach to our alumni.

From Teaching to Thinking: Rediscovering the joy and wonder of early childhood education

This learning experience will offer a book study investigation, facilitated by Shannon Tenney, Preschool Coordinator, Georgetown Public Schools. The book is titled [From Teaching to](#)

Thinking: A Pedagogy for Reimagining Our Work, by Ann Pelo and Margie Carter. This program will ignite new ideas and encourage a reenvisioning of our work in early childhood. Through both independent reading and four collaborative sessions, participants will create a new outlook for their daily work. A flyer with the registration form is forthcoming.



Save the Date! ECLC Winter Gathering 2024

Essex County
LEARNING COMMUNITY

ECLC Winter Gathering

*The Project Habit:
Designing for Rigor with
Project Based Learning*

featuring *Michael McDowell,
The Core Collaborative*

Wylie Inn & Conference Center

February 8, 2024
8 am to 3 pm

The Project Habit: Designing for Rigor with Project-Based Learning

Life is full of authentic challenges that can only be met with clarity, creative problem-solving, collaboration, and feedback. School should be the same. Looking to close opportunity gaps while providing students with real world, authentic learning experiences? Join us for a day with internationally acclaimed Project Based Learning (PBL) guru **Michael McDowell** to discuss his framework to eliminate systemic opportunity gaps by developing critical 21st century learning skills that will serve our students for life. Register **here**.

Register Now: SEED for Administrators

A chance for administrators to become stronger anti-racist, justice-seeking leaders

Join us for an intimate, administrators-only series of conversations about some of the most challenging issues in education today. This learning experience is ideal for those who wish to build up their courage and become more effective leaders in the process.

Register **here**.

SEED for Administrators



Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) is a peer-led model, that has - until now - been unavailable to administrators.

School and district leaders are invited to join us for our new **SEED for Administrators**, and to join their peers in a unique SEED experience.

February 29 | March 13 | March 27
8 am to 3 pm
Wylie Conference Center
Beverly, MA



Access the updated 2023-2024 Learning Agenda here.

Resources from the Field



Mastering Assessments: UDL Strategies for Student Success

Katie Novak, the Founder and Executive Director of Novak Education, is internationally recognized for her focus on Universal Design for Learning and implementation of inclusive practices. In this guide, she offers tips and tricks for educators as they prepare their students for standardized testing. Despite its limitations, Novak says, standardized assessments are here to stay, but educators who practice UDL in their classrooms can use effective strategies to prepare their students.

Read the full guide [here](#).



How Children and Adults can Build Core Capabilities for Life

In this video from Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, they explore the development and use of core capabilities — also known as executive function and self-regulation skills — from early childhood into adolescence and adulthood. Learn what these skills are, why they're important, how they're affected by stress, and how positive environmental conditions can support the development of these skills.

Watch the full video [here](#).



Shifting from Systems to Ecosystems Thinking: Why Does it Matter?

Karen Pittman, partner at KP Catalysts and the founder of the Forum for Youth Investment, shares her experiences and opinions on how educators can shift their mindsets from existing only within their own systems, to one that embraces education ecosystems or communities. The ecosystem she describes combines in-school and out-of-school learning, showing how intertwining the two is a positive first step towards significant academic progress.

Read her full opinion [here](#).



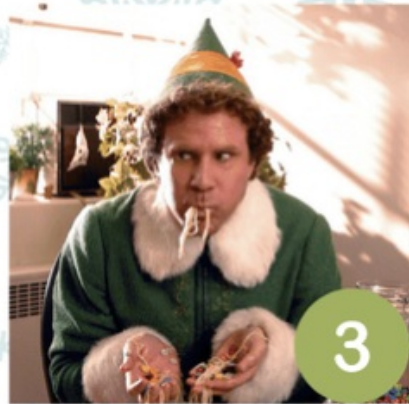
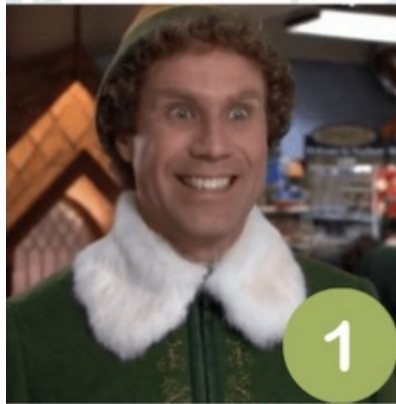
Opinion: We Need More Problem Solvers and Critical Thinkers for an Increasingly Complex World

Virgil Hammonds, the Chief Learning Officer at KnowledgeWorks, shares his opinion on how the rigid structure of the traditional K-12 education system leaves little room for students to engage in real-world problem-solving scenarios and often discourages students from questioning established norms or exploring alternative perspectives.

Read his full opinion [here](#).

Just for Fun

THE EMOTIONS OF TEACHING THE WEEK BEFORE WINTER BREAK



@weareteachers

*Do you have something “Just for Fun” to share with your fellow educators?
Send it to us at info@powerofplacelc.org.*

Power of Place Learning Communities | 2 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100, Burlington, MA
01803

[Unsubscribe info@powerofplacelc.org](mailto:info@powerofplacelc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by info@powerofplacelc.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!