

POWER *of* PLACE

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It's hard to believe, but the **ECLC Spring Showcase of Learning** is less than a week away! I want to take a moment to appreciate the richness of our community. As with everything we do, the Showcase of Learning is a collective endeavor. Many individuals and organizations have contributed their time, creativity, and passion into creating an event that promises to be intellectually stimulating, thought-provoking, and a lot of fun. We offer our deep gratitude to:

- **Educators across Essex County** who will share what they've learned this year, why they teach and lead, and what drives them to keep learning. Their commitment to their own learning and development is impressive, and their enthusiasm for teaching and

leading is inspiring and contagious. We also discovered some musicians in the ranks, who will grace us with a soulful soundscape in the PEM atrium.

- **Guest faculty members** who have led engaging learning experiences this year and who have embraced our model of co-design. They are all widely regarded in their fields, and bring cutting-edge scholarship and strategies to our learning experiences.

- **The Power of Place Board of Directors**, whose members have rolled up their sleeves to help launch this still-new organization, put it on solid footing, and have helped to open doors on our behalf.

- **The ECLC Advisory Cabinet**, consisting of educators across many roles, who are our ears to the ground. They come together quarterly to offer sage guidance and critical feedback.

- **Our partners at the Peabody Essex Museum** whose competence, energy, and creativity have made the planning process an exciting, joyful experience. When the PEM team offered us an art-making opportunity, we were overwhelmed with gratitude.

(Cliffhanger: you'll have to **join us on May 8** to see what I'm talking about.)

- None of the above would be possible without the financial and moral support of the **Peter & Elizabeth C Tower Foundation**, which has funded our work since 2017, back when ECLC was just an idea. It's rare these days that a funder understands and endorses the slow, deliberate, and patient work of building community and shifting systems in a field and a world where complexity reigns. We also give thanks to our colleagues at the Essex County Community Foundation for their fiscal and moral support over the years, and to generous donor Linzee Coolidge.

Finally, I want to personally thank the extraordinary members of the ECLC team whose talents and steadfast dedication to the work are nothing short of awe-inspiring to me. All of us feel fortunate to be walking alongside Essex County educators and providing the kind of lifelong learning that you, like all professionals, desire and need.

We can't wait to see you at the Showcase! To learn more [here](#), and click [here](#) to register.

In community,
Jane

We can't wait to see you at the Showcase of Learning!

Don't miss out!

[LEARN MORE](#)
& [REGISTER](#)

ESSEX COUNTY LEARNING COMMUNITY'S

2023-24 Spring Showcase of Learning

FEATURING

Essex County Educators

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM, SALEM, MA

MAY 8, 2024 • 4:30 - 7:30 PM



Upcoming Opportunities

**Massachusetts Real-World
Learning Convening**
Thursday, May 9 | Uxbridge, MA



Join Big Picture Learning for a day of interactive workshops, engaging speakers, and networking opportunities tailored to offer educators valuable resources to enhance student internship experiences. This event is all about bringing together educators, students, and professionals to explore real-world learning experiences.

Register [here](#).

Restore & Connect Writing Retreats

rethinking schools

Rethinking Schools invites you to apply for our Summer 2024 In-person Restore & Connect Writing Retreats in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Portland, Oregon.

The Restore & Connect Writing Retreats will serve as a respite for educators of color committed to social justice teaching in K-12 classrooms. Teachers will write poetry and narratives about social justice school/teaching life, articles about theory and practice grounded in classroom lessons, and/or opinion pieces about issues in the teaching of writing or education.

Learn more and apply [here](#).

Save the Date

ECLC Summer Institute

Finding Your Flow

Thursday, August 8

Beverly, MA

ECLC 2024 Fall Gathering

Election Day, Tuesday, November 5

Essex North Shore Agricultural and
Technical School | Hathorne, MA



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Follow us for photos, links to resources,
upcoming opportunities, and more.



*Access the updated 2023-2024
Learning Agenda [here](#).*

Resources



[Lost in Translation](#)



A new comparative study from Ph.D. candidate Maya Alkateb-Chami finds strong correlation between low literacy outcomes for children and schools teaching in different language from home. Education systems around the world are failing to develop basic literacy skills in almost half of young learners, according to the World Bank — a situation that has only worsened because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now new research illuminates a growing problem related to declining global literacy rates: a mismatch between the language that students speak at home and the language of instruction used in schools.

Read the full study [here](#).

The Whole Child Needs a Whole Educator

A whole child approach is becoming a mainstay of education—educational philosophy and purpose are becoming more well-rounded, and there is a growing understanding of the need for student supports to address disparities. ASCD’s whole child commitment has helped change the definition of a successful learner “from one whose achievement is measured solely by academic tests to one who is knowledgeable, emotionally and physically healthy, civically inspired, engaged in the arts, prepared for work and economic self-sufficiency, and ready for the world beyond formal schooling”

Read the full study [here](#).



“So hard, but so rewarding:” How school system leaders are scaling up strategic school staffing models

Innovative staffing models are promising, but challenging to scale up. What does the work of leading strategic staffing involve, and what could make scaling up easier? This report digs deep into the many challenges system leaders face when scaling up innovative staffing solutions. These leaders are trying to address longstanding teacher shortages and retention challenges by rethinking everything, including who they hire and how they design the job, provide support, build trust, and uproot old assumptions about the teaching role.

Read the full study [here](#).



A Tool to Encourage Students to Respect the Dignity of Their Classmates

No matter how hard we might try, the polarized climate outside of our classrooms still seeps into them. This climate pushes our students into us-versus-them thinking, toward less careful and open listening and a higher degree of tension and anxiety from walking around in what can be a hostile environment due to relentless bullying. The Dignity Index asks students to reflect on their thoughts about others and their willingness to listen to those with different views.

Access the toolkit [here](#),

Just for Fun

[Mama Ducks & Their Ducklings Get the Red-Carpet Treatment as Students and Teachers Make Way for the Annual School Duck Parade](#)



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

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