

POWER *of* PLACE

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In her book ***High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out***, journalist and author Amanda Ripley explores the damage we can cause when we box people into rigid categories or demonize those who think differently. Today we're seeing this happen more and more as Election Day gets closer. Whether on social media, on television, at work, or in our communities, many people are stuck in what Ripley calls "high conflict" - the kind of ugly, unproductive disputes that can divide us, block progress, and leave us feeling frustrated.

Ripley suspected that such "high conflict" does not have to be our reality. She set out to understand how people can navigate conflicts that seem immovable - whether personal, political or otherwise. She followed people from all walks of life: a local politician in California, a former gang leader in Chicago, an environmental activist in England, and everyday voters in New York and Michigan. They were all searching for a way to break free from divisive conflict and find common ground.

As I read Ripley's book, I was captivated by her compelling storytelling and the transformations these people experienced over time and with much reflection.

Ripley demonstrates that “high conflict” can be turned into “good conflict,” the kind that pushes us to learn and grow, and even come to respect those we once did not understand.

Ripley and her fellow journalist H el ene Biandudi Hofer have since turned these ideas into **Good Conflict**, an organization that helps people reimagine conflict in a way that preserves everyone’s dignity and builds connection. We are fortunate to have Ripley and Biandudi Hofer joining us for our Fall Gathering, where they will share their four-step framework for turning high conflict into good conflict.

Please join us for this special keynote session and others focused on navigating, planning for and engaging in different types of good conflict on November 5 (Election Day), at **Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School (ENSATS) in Danvers** . Please see additional details about our Fall Gathering, “*Conversations We Need to Have (but often avoid)*” and a link to register below.

Our community is buzzing with activity these days, some of which is captured below. Keep checking our Learning Agenda and our biweekly newsletter for information about upcoming experiences, all of which are available to everyone in our partner school districts. We hope to see you - either in person or online - very soon, and please reach out with any questions.

In connection,

Jane

FALL 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/17: MENTAL HEALTH & RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

11/5: FALL GATHERING

11/8: EMBRACING THE NEW IEP

*LEARN MORE BELOW &
CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR FULL
2024-25 LEARNING AGENDA*

**Starting Next Week:
"The Journey to Restorative Practice"**

Mental Health and Restorative Practices Series:

The Journey to Restorative Practices



Thursday, October 17th from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

(Breakfast & Lunch Provided)

Wylie Inn & Conference Center in Beverly, MA

Calling all:

Guidance Counselors ~ Social Workers ~ Adjustment Counselors
Special Educators ~ School Resource Officers ~ Assistant Principals
School Nurses ~ Family/Community Liaisons

...everyone who cares deeply about youth wellness!

Register



Join us to hear Edgar de Leon, Director of Restorative Practices at Beverly Middle School, describe the continuing journey he and the school are taking to embed restorative practices in BMS's daily life.

Edgar will share how restorative practices serves as a companion, not replacement, to school discipline and will invite participants to consider the mindset and capacity building work that would be needed to bring restorative practices to their own context.

11/5 ECLC Fall Gathering: *Conversations We Need to Have (But Often Avoid)*

Conversations We Need to Have (but often avoid)

Featuring the co-founders of Good Conflict:
Amanda Ripley & H el ene Biandudi Hofer



"When people have
the vocabulary,
guard rails, and basic
skills to investigate
conflict and tell new
stories, it changes
everything."

Register
Today



Essex North Shore
Agricultural Technical School
565 Maple Street in Danvers, MA

November 5 | 8 am to 4 pm

ICYMI, here's what's been happening at PoP:
Annual Learning Agenda

Science of Learning and Development Webinar



Transcend recently joined ECLC for “*The Science of Learning and Development*,” a virtual learning experience to help us understand **how learning happens**. Participants began the experience designing their own origami heart and ended with a deep exploration of Transcend’s *Designing for Learning* cards.

One participant offered this debrief of the experience: “My ‘ahas’ [from the webinar] were reflecting on my own practice and gaining useful tools to share with colleagues in my school.”

You can access all the resources from the webinar, including a full [recording](#), in the [LinkTree](#).

ICYMI, here’s what’s been happening at PoP: *Multi-District Cohort Experiences*

The following opportunities have been convened as part of ECLC's customized, multi-district learning experiences. To learn more, [click here](#).

Navigating Change



This month, ECLC launched “**Navigating Change**,” a two-year opportunity for our newest districts to identify an essential question and embark on a change process with an authentic problem of practice of their own choosing. Districts are participating in three cross-district convening each year and working with coaches in the “in-between spaces” who help them navigate the change process.

Multi-stakeholder teams from Georgetown, North Andover, Peabody, and Pentucket gathered at the Wylie Inn and Conference Center on October 8 for a full day that participants described variously as “*reflective*,” “*exhilarating*,” “*refreshing*,” “*eye-opening*,” “*connecting*,” “*challenging*,” and “*hopeful*,” among other adjectives.

Rigorous Leading and Learning series, led by Michael McDowell



This week district leaders and classroom teachers from Beverly, Peabody, and Essex North Shore Technical Agricultural School (ENSATS) attended the opening of “Rigorous Leading and Learning,” a year-long experience led by internationally renowned educator Michael McDowell.

Throughout the series participants will engage with Michael’s newest book, *Rigor Redefined*, and a handbook, *A Visual, Step-by-Step Guide for Re-envisioning Rigor*. This comprehensive professional learning experience is designed to build both individual and collective capacity, empowering educators to create high-impact, rigorous learning environments for their students.

This series will continue with virtual coaching sessions throughout the school year, and conclude with in-person sessions toward the end of the school year. Many thanks to ENSATS for hosting the in-person sessions in a beautiful, historic space across the street from its main campus and to the students from their Culinary Arts program for providing breakfast and lunch.

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Resources & Opportunities



**The Opportunity Makers:
How a Diverse Group of Public
Schools Helps Students Catch Up—
and How Far More Can**



**Leadership Co-Lab: Equity
Leaders**

The Teacher Collaborative has opened applications for application for Equity

In schools across the country, far too many students fall behind academically, and most who fall behind stay behind. If we don't accelerate learning at scale, millions of students may never catch up. This has far-reaching implications for students' futures: TNTP's new research has shown that a strong academic foundation is one of five factors of social and economic mobility. Without strong academic foundations, they will be less equipped to pursue chosen careers, achieve financial security, and thrive in life.

Read the full study [here](#).

Leaders, their flagship leadership Co-Lab! This opportunity is specifically for teachers who would like to jumpstart their work toward more equitable outcomes in their schools and districts. Participants will formalize, expand, and deepen their approach to change leadership with an emphasis on the early stages of creating bold change—equity auditing, establishing a set of allies, visioning, and planning for maximum impact.

Learn more and apply [here](#).

edUTOPIA

Developing a Sense of Belonging Right From the Start

Fostering a sense of belonging in learners starts with nurturing an environment where they can thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. One key aspect to consider is how the learning area, the context, is organized. Cecilia Cabrera Martirena has found that involving the learners in the configuration of the classroom helps them develop the feeling of being accepted, valued as a member of the group, and connected to the learning community. She highlights three main areas where learners have the chance to leave an imprint and celebrate observing how this imprint connects to the ones of their classmates.

Learn about the 3 main areas [here](#).

MIKE ANDERSON

What About Kids Who Just Don't Care?

There are many reasons students shut down in school, but in a new blog Mike Anderson of Leading Great Learning points out two that are especially prevalent: (1) Some kids refuse to try because it's safer than trying and failing. It's a form of self-protection. (2) Others, especially older children who have experienced years of school, have picked up cues and messages that they shouldn't care about schoolwork.

In his blog Mike digs into both of these and offers ways to help students get out of their own way.

Read the full blog [here](#).

Just for Fun

When a teacher wants to know if there are any questions, she doesn't mean any question. She wants to be asked about the thing she's teaching. So if she's teaching you about Mexico, don't ask if "Bubbles" is a good name for a hamster.



RUSS

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

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