

POWER *of* PLACE

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The power of human connection cannot be underestimated. From the moment we enter the world until the moment we leave it, our connections shape who we are. Despite these ties, when dramatic changes - big or small - happen around us, we tend to feel anxious, unmoored, unsettled.. and alone.

This week I am writing to share a reminder: None of us are alone. Educators have a unique opportunity to build connections that create community. We model for the next generation of learners, doers, and leaders what it means to live and flourish together in a civil society. Our work is hyper-local, high stakes, and highly relational. That's what makes it so challenging, consequential, and meaningful.

My fervent hope is that over the next several weeks and months we will draw on each other for strength in our most difficult moments, and come to value our connections even more. My wish is for us all to remember to treat our relationships as sacred encounters between and among whole human beings, not merely transactions toward concrete ends. If we take

this charge seriously, our differences - in perspective, background, affiliation or beliefs - can be some of our greatest sources of resilience, growth, and strength.

School is where both children and adults make some of their most meaningful connections. For youth these connections spark curiosity and confidence; for the adults - and all of us - they reignite purpose and passion. We learn in connection, we grow in connection, we thrive in connection. This is not just our job, this is our privilege.

As always, we remain here for you, in connection.

Jane

Upcoming EVENTS

**JAN
27**

ECLC Book Club

Zoom

**FEB
6**

Winter Gathering

Wylie Inn & Conference Center

**FEB
26**

SEED for Administrators

Wylie Inn & Conference Center

VIEW OUR COMPLETE
2024-25 LEARNING AGENDA [HERE](#)

Don't Miss Out!
ECLC 2025 Winter Gathering:
Tapping into the Wisdom Within

ECLC 2025 Winter Gathering

Tapping into the Wisdom Within



Learn more and register today!

February 6, 2025 | 8 am to 3 pm
Wylie Inn & Conference Center



PoP Happenings: *The Human Side of Changing Education*

On January 10, ECLC and the Curriculum and Staff Development Network (CSDN) co-sponsored a half-day seminar titled, “The Human Side of Changing Education,” featuring Julie Jungalalwala, Founder and Executive Director of the **Institute of the Future of Learning**. The room was abuzz as assistant superintendents, curriculum

directors and others leading district change were encouraged to reflect on the change efforts within their own spheres of influence and what human factors might be blocking effective change. **Jungalalwala's book** lays out a practical framework and a variety of tools and resources. We look forward welcoming her back into our community soon.



Upcoming Opportunities

Join us for **Democracy in Dialogue**



This ECLC Exploratory Mini-Grant series is designed to help educators teach young people to break down barriers and better understand the people around them.

Learn more!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ECLC Book Club



Join us to explore how to use unique tools like **podcasts, graphic novels and manga** in your classroom to help students understand and value human differences.

January 27 4-5:30 pm on Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

SEED FOR ADMINISTRATORS: DON'T MISS OUT!

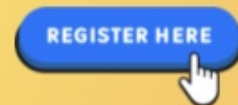


Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) is a peer-led model for administrators only. This is a space for exploration, reflection, connection and deep learning for school and district leaders.

February 26 | March 5 | March 12 from 8 am to 3 pm

Wylie Inn & Conference Center in Beverly

Register today!



Calling All Teachers! Upcoming Opportunity with WPS Institute

WPS Institute and their partners at the **MIT Morningside Academy for Design (MAD)** are developing an open-source library of instructional activities and WPS is thrilled to collaborate with MAD in the design of these resources.

Together, they are excited to announce a special opportunity for teachers who are eager to bring cutting-edge curriculum to their classroom.

Learn more about the opportunity **here**.

**Deadline extended to*

January 31.

TEACHER INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP



**Opportunity for
Grades 7-12 Educators
All subjects**

Join a vibrant community of educators who are curious and committed to reimagining K12 education through our inaugural Teacher Innovation Fellowship this spring.

Help shape hands-on design and making curriculum, develop transferable skills across subjects, and provide feedback on new lesson plans.

CALL FOR
TEACHERS:
INNOVATIVE
CURRICULUM
DEVELOPMENT

COMPENSATION

\$750 stipend

COMMITMENT

5 hours/month
(1.5-hour
in-person session,
virtual check-ins,
asynchronous work)

APPLY NOW
FOR THE 2025
SPRING SEMESTER

designPD@mit.edu

Application due Jan 24, 2025
Acceptance Jan 30, 2025



Mental Health Blog Series with Craig Harris: Part 2

Last week, we introduced you to Craig Harris, the former Director of Counseling and SEL at the Swampscott Public Schools and long-time head of emotional disability support programs for students. Harris has written a 7-part blog series for Power of Place that delves into his framework for organizing mental health services. Last week, we published the series introduction. Today, we feature Harris' second post: "Right Student, Right Time."

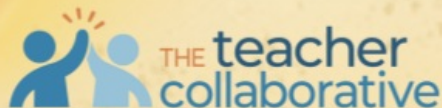


Celebrating Our Teacher Action Research Fellows

Congratulations
to the graduates of the 2nd
cohort of the ECLC
Teacher Action Research
Fellowship!

Samantha Aiello
Elly Berke
Sylvia Harrison
Melissa Jacobo
Heather Lang
Lissa Levine

Amber Magin
Allison Nichols
Kelsie Puttbach
Anna Sabella
Heidi Wakeman



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



Resources



Thinking Beyond the Teacher Shortage

Teacher shortages are widespread. In the U.S., one in eight teaching positions is unfilled or filled by teachers who are not fully certified for their assignments. In India, there are over one million teacher vacancies, with the most in rural and underserved areas. Nigeria faces an acute shortage, with fewer than 4,000 skilled and technical teachers nationwide. In the United Kingdom, too few secondary school teachers are being recruited, especially in key subjects. Mexico also faces a worsening shortage of teachers. The time is ripe to think creatively about what might be possible for the future of learning and the future education workforce.

Read the full article [here](#).



Engaging Minds, Changing Futures: A Deep Dive Into Student Engagement & Learning

Explore this insightful Q&A with award-winning journalist Jenny Anderson and global education expert Rebecca Winthrop as they discuss the evolution of education reporting, the transformative power of family-school engagement, and what parents can do to ensure their children thrive. Together, they share perspectives on the current opportunities for educational transformation, highlighting the critical role of media, parents, and policymakers in shaping a more engaging and effective education system.

Read the full interview [here](#).



Strategies for Running a Truly Student-Centered IEP Meeting

There are typically more than 20 pages of information to cover during individualized education program (IEP) meetings. Sifting through lots of academic jargon can unintentionally make these meetings feel transactional, overwhelming, and unwelcoming for parents and guardians. As a result, a student's personality and interests, which are supposed to inform how their educational program is designed, risk becoming an afterthought. An IEP meeting should be a collaborative effort where everyone contributes, as opposed to a 20-page to-



For Students Who Struggle, Boston High School Offers 'Space to Grow Emotionally'

Lynka Guadalupe was about a year and a half from graduating from one of Boston's oldest high schools when she learned she was pregnant. Guadalupe dropped out and spent months figuring out her next move. That's when she learned about a tiny charter school not far from her home called Boston Day and Evening Academy. Though its model has changed slightly over the years, it has become one of the most closely watched alternative high schools in the U.S., offering a model of care and personal attention that larger,

do list.

Find all of the strategies **here**.

more comprehensive schools often struggle to create.

Read more of Lynka's story **here**.

Just for Fun: Panda Cam!

*Need a mental break? Take a minute to check in on Bao Li and Qing Bao, the Smithsonian National Zoo's two newest pandas. **The Panda-Cam** will run daily from 7 am to 7 pm and with live footage of their every step, roll and bite of bamboo. Enjoy!*



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

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