

POWER *of* PLACE

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As many of you know, PoP brings educators together across districts for deep learning, reflection, conversation, and connection -- toward building cultures of belonging in schools. Our professional learning experiences are designed to launch ongoing conversations among peers, and are rarely “one and done” sessions.

But sometimes, there is an emerging issue or a recurring theme that warrants special attention, if only for a moment in time. For those issues and themes we have created “Pop-Ups,” a lighter-touch, one time, learning experience. This can also be a tool for exploring the appetite of the community on a particular issue or theme - and could be a catalyst for future learning experiences or a multi-part series. We are just getting started with our first two Pop-Ups:

- On March 27, from 4-6 pm ([register here](#)), we will host a community screening of the newly-released film **“Ultimate Citizens.”** followed by a conversation with the filmmaker and the film's protagonist. Jamshid Khajavi, an extraordinary 65-year-old Iranian American public school counselor in Seattle, uses the sport of Ultimate Frisbee to help children heal in a district with high numbers of immigrant and refugee students. The film hopes to emphasize the critical importance of diverse,

inclusive and welcoming schools and celebrate the contributions of immigrants like Jamshid to our society.

- On April 16, from 4-6 pm ([register here](#)), we will welcome **The Children's Room (TCR)**, a non-profit organization supporting children, teens, parents/caregivers, schools & communities who are coping with grief. Its services include peer support groups, parent groups, teen programs, and consultations/referrals. The team will share the models, frameworks, and tools they've developed and fine-tuned since the organization's founding in 1993.

We hope you'll join us and bring your colleagues. And if you have suggestions for future PoP-Ups, let us know! Who knows what your idea might become, and who else could benefit.

In connection,

Jane

Upcoming Events

MAR 27 PoP-UP: Ultimate Citizens Screening
Zoom

APR 07 ECLC Winter Gathering
ENSATS, Danvers

APR 16 PoP-UP: Building Compassionate
School Communities | Zoom

MAY 21 ECLC Showcase of Learning
Peabody Essex Museum, Salem

Rescheduled for April 7!
ECLC Winter Gathering

New Date * New Location * Same Line Up

Come support - and learn
from - your peers!



Tapping into the Wisdom Within



ECLC Winter Gathering, Take 2

Monday, April 7 from 8 am to 3 pm
Essex North Shore Agricultural Technical School

Register today to join us!



Save the Date!

Spring Showcase of Learning: May 21



SAVE THE DATE

Showcase of Learning
A Celebration of Community

MAY 21, 2025 | 4:30-7:30 PM
PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM



New PoP-Ups at ECLC!



SPECIAL ECLC SCREENING
THURSDAY, MARCH 27 | 4-6 PM ON ZOOM

JOIN US TO VIEW AND DISCUSS A FILM ABOUT
EMPATHY, HOPE, AND TIRELESS DEVELOPMENT



ULTIMATE CITIZENS

Sometimes the biggest victories happen off the field

A film by Francine Strickwerda

REGISTER TODAY!

Building Compassionate School Communities: Creating a Grief-Supportive Culture



**One in 13 children experience
the death of a parent or sibling
by the time they turn 18.**

Educators can play an important role in helping students through their grief, and classrooms can become a place of compassion, belonging, flexibility, consistency, and normalcy.

Learn more in a special session with

The Children's Room

April 16, from 4-6 pm on Zoom

[Register Here](#)



Opportunity from Our Partner

NEERO 2025 Annual Conference

Equity, Justice, and Renewal in Education:
Bridging Gaps through Research and Innovation

March 26 - 28, 2025
Portsmouth, NH

Join us for innovative
research, discussions, and
networking opportunities!

- 45 Research Papers
- 9 Research Posters
- 1 Symposia & 2 Keynotes
- 25 Practitioner Presentations



Register now at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/neero-2025-annual-conference>

For more information:

www.neero.org



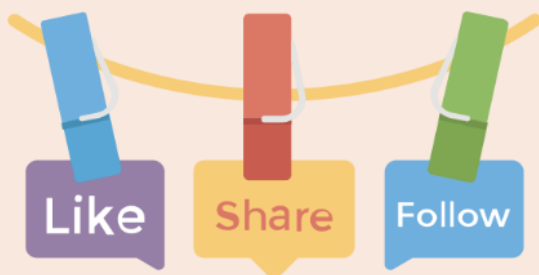
The NEERO Conference purposefully brings together teachers and other practitioners with education researchers, and we hope members of the ECLC community will consider joining - particularly on Thursday (March 27th) which includes a full day of sessions and a keynote lunch. Limited scholarships are available through MINTS (they will provide a code making your registration free) - [apply here](#) soon to not miss out!

**Mental Health Blog Series with
Craig Harris: Part 5**

Don't miss this week's blog post by Craig Harris, 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. Today, we feature Harris' fifth post in the series: "[Right Services 2.](#)"



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Resources

Guy Claxton

Unfixing Growth Mindset

This article, shared today by Michael McDowell in the final session of the yearlong ECLC series, "Rigorous Leading and Teaching," discusses what happens when growth mindset (GM) - a general attitude of optimism toward learning - can be misconstrued. Author and educator Guy Claxton cautions that true GM does not result from repeating slogans such as 'Don't Say Can't' or 'Say Can't Yet,' and that such messages are weak drivers of behavior change. The three school districts who participated in Michael's series of in-person and online sessions -Beverly, ENSATS, and Peabody -participated in a robust conversation about the article. Thanks

Lindsay Lyons

Time for Teachership Episode 201: Designing Discourse Opportunities that Build on Each Other

In this episode, Lindsay Lyons talks about transforming classroom dynamics by designing discourse opportunities that build overtime. This concept, "threading," is from Matt Kaye's book, "Not Light But Fire," and is useful in creating open conversations in your classroom. It's a vital approach for fostering empathy and understanding—especially before addressing emotionally charged topics. This method emphasizes foundational communication agreements and intentional curriculum design to

to ENSATS for hosting the onsite sessions.

Read the full article [here](#).

empower students and center their voices. It can be used in whole-class discussions and discourse experiences, as well as small-group conversations.

Listen to the podcast [here](#).



From Disengagement to Empowerment: Reducing Absenteeism Through Real-World Learning

Chronic absenteeism is one of the most stubborn problems plaguing U.S. schools today. It's not just a post-pandemic issue of skipped classes and missed school days. Today's persistent high absenteeism is a symptom of a deeper disengagement that has been brewing for years. As much as educators and families have tried to address this challenge with incentives or punitive measures, there's a growing consensus that the key to reducing absenteeism lies in giving students something much more powerful: a sense of ownership over their education. For too many students, school has become something to endure rather than an experience they look forward to.

Read the full study [here](#).



Aylon Samouha on How Communities Can Design Extraordinary Learning for All

In this episode of the Getting Smart Podcast, host Rebecca Midles sits down with Aylon Samouha, the CEO of Transcend and a visionary in education reform. They delve into the concept of The Third Way, an approach that blends community insights with proven educational practices to create lasting change in schools. Aylon shares his insights from years of experience in the field, discussing the limitations of traditional top-down reforms and the challenges faced by grassroots efforts. Together, they explore the importance of truly listening to students and communities to design learning environments that meet today's needs.

Listen to the podcast [here](#).

A Special Invitation

Attention Lifelong Learners!



Did you recently defend your doctoral dissertation? Are you in the midst of your doctoral journey? Are you contemplating doctoral work? Let's talk! We want to open a space for conversation, connection, and support for anyone at any place along the doctoral pathway.

**Email Jane Feinberg:
jfeinberg@powerofplacelc.org
by Friday, April 11.**

Honoring Women's History Month



HELP US BUILD AN ECLC-WIDE LIST OF

WOMEN WHO HAVE IMPACTED OUR LIVES

Complete **this survey** to contribute your names, and **watch this space** for the full list at the end of the month!



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

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