

Global Cities Education Network Virtual Symposium

Date: April 19 - 22, 2021

Hosted by: Surrey Schools, British Columbia, Canada

Symposium Theme: Developing Equitable Future-Ready Education Systems

Surrey Schools will serve as a case study to frame our discussions. We will focus on their system successes, emerging learnings, and challenges with a focus on their unique COVID response and implications for schooling in its aftermath. We will also investigate more deeply Surrey's competency-based curriculum; digital portfolio systems; and leadership coaching culture.

Sub-themes:

1. Learning Ecosystem: Multiple Modes of Learning
What is the future of learning in hybrid and blended modalities? Learning takes place in multiple places with multiple people; it is no longer digital versus non-digital.
2. Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
In a COVID world, mental health and wellness is more important than ever. How are SEL and 21st century skills being implemented across whole school systems?
3. The Teaching Profession
 - Systems need a specialized, differentiated workforce of educators. What does it mean to be an educator in the current environment?
 - During the emergency COVID response, the systems that fared the best are those that empowered teachers as creative professionals. What does this tell us about how systems can best adapt to unexpected disruptions?
4. Assessment, Recognition, and Credentialing
How do we broaden our assessment and credentialing systems? What are best practice examples from GCEN members as well as from around the world?

Symposium Goals

1. Support and Dialogue: Discussion and feedback with the GCEN network.
2. Spread of Learning: Sharing lessons, adaptations, and best practice with other districts focused on the above themes.

Monday, April 19 Participants: GCEN, Working Group Members & General Public PUBLIC PROGRAM Excellence and Equity During the Pandemic: A Step Forward or a Step Backward?		
7:00pmET – 7:10pmET	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Jackson, Vice President, Center for Global Education, Asia Society • Jordan Tinney, Superintendent, Surrey Schools 	
7:10pmET – 7:30pmET	How do we put the findings of the research in the current pandemic context? This virtual program will feature early findings from an ongoing study of Surrey Schools’ implementation of equity strategies, including how these strategies facilitated the pivot to blended online and in-school experiences aimed at maintaining the quality of learning and supporting students and parents emotionally. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christina Russell, Senior Managing Director, Policy Studies Associates • Jordan Tinney, Superintendent, Surrey Schools 	Moderator: Anthony Mackay
7:30pm ET – 8:15pmET	International Panel Responds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Enfield, Superintendent, Highline Public Schools • Zhang Minxuan, Director of International Teacher Education Center, UNESCO • Tan Pei En, Divisional Director, Ministry of Education, Singapore 	Moderator: Anthony Mackay
8:15pmET – 8:20pmET	Break	
8:20pmET – 9:00pmET	Group Debrief	
Learning Objective: How do we move from reimagining to redesigning a future-ready education system?		

Tuesday, April 20 Participants: GCEN and SEL Working Group Members Theme: The Teaching Profession and Future-Ready Systems		
6:30pmET – 6:50pmET	Welcome and Introduction of Teams	Heather Singmaster, Asia Society
6:50pmET – 7:45pmET	The Teaching Profession and Future-Ready Systems: SEL as a Case Study How do we view the teaching profession? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrey’s support of the teaching profession. How do our structures keep equity at the heart of our collective purpose? What does that support and empowerment look like in action? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning by Design – A Vision for All Learners • Surrey’s foundation in SEL as a case study for empowering the profession to meet the needs of all learners. Why SEL for future ready systems? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does our work with SEL serve all students to be responsible, caring citizens prepared for our rapidly changing complex world? 	Jordan Tinney and the Surrey Schools Team
7:45pmET – 8:30pmET	Break-out discussion and dialogue across jurisdictions.	
8:30pmET – 9:30pmET	Panel Responds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Box, Acting Executive Director, Performance, Victorian Department of Education and Training, Australia • Baron Davis, Superintendent, Richland School District 2, South Carolina • Miranda Kogon, Associate Chief of Student Equity & Opportunity, Denver Public Schools • Tham Mun See, Executive Director of the Academy of Singapore Teachers 	Moderator: Anthony Mackay
Learning Objective: Understand what teacher leadership looks like as a profession led by practitioners.		

Wednesday, April 21 Participants: GCEN Members Theme: Multiple modalities of learning and pedagogy in service of deeper learning.		
6:30pmET – 6:35pmET	Introduction to the Day	Tony Jackson, Asia Society
6:35pmET – 7:20pmET	Multiple Modalities of Learning and Pedagogy in Service of Deeper Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy Halbert, Co-Director, Networks of Inquiry and Indigenous Education, University of British Columbia • Linda Kaser, University of British Columbia • Michael Stevenson, Senior Advisor, OECD • Rebecca Winthrop, Senior Fellow and Co-Director, Center for Universal Education, The Brookings Institution 	Moderator: Anthony Mackay
7:20pmET – 8:05pmET	Q&A Session with Speakers	
8:05pmET – 8:15pmET	Break	
8:15pmET – 9:30pmET	Sessions with GCEN cities – please choose one: Room 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne, Australia: <i>Lessons from Victoria’s Experience of Remote and Flexible Learning in 2020</i> • Lexington, KY: <i>A Holistic System Response: School Safety as a Case Study</i> Room 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellington, NZ: <i>Shifting the Balance from Accountability to Professional Growth</i> • Broward, FL: <i>How COVID19 Accelerated the Use of Technology to Create Micro-schools and Broadcast Classrooms</i> 	Room 1 Moderator: Anthony Mackay Room 2 Moderator: Heather Singmaster, Asia Society
Daily Learning objectives: Understand best practices in preparing for a world of hybrid learning, including the use of time, space, and people – different roles for teacher learner, parent, and external partners. Is pedagogy the heart of changing the entire system?		

Thursday, April 22 Participants: GCEN Members Theme: Assessment, Recognition, and Credentialing in a post-COVID world		
6:30pmET – 6:35pmET	Introduction to the Day	Anthony Mackay
6:35pmET – 7:45pmET	Assessment, Recognition, and Credentialing in a post-COVID world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Fadel, Founder & Chairman, Center for Curriculum Redesign • Sandra Milligan, Director and Principal Researcher, Assessment Research Centre, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne • Amelia Peterson, Founding Faculty, London Interdisciplinary School and Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science 	Moderator: Anthony Mackay
7:45pmET – 8:20pmET	GCEN Team Planning and Debrief Time Discussion questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we get systems change around the priorities we have been discussing throughout this symposium? • How do we get the right stakeholders on board and shift public perceptions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Which partners need to be involved? • How do we shift mindsets? • Choose 2 or 3 strategies your jurisdiction plans to use to shift your system to share during the Group Debrief. 	
8:20pmET – 9:20pmET	GCEN Group Debrief	Moderator: Anthony Mackay
9:20pmET – 9:30pmET	Closing	Heather Singmaster, Asia Society

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