

Global Cities Education Network Denver Symposium

Date: November 6-9, 2017

Location: University of Colorado, Denver

Denver Public Schools in Colorado is a diverse urban district. In the last ten years, it has decreased dropout rates, increased graduation rates and academic achievement on test scores, and has drawn students back into the public-school system.

These improvements have been driven by a number of strategies targeting system and school level improvement, led by consistency of vision and senior leadership. Increased opportunity for choice, a culture of equity, an expansion of the role of teacher leadership, growing career and technical education (CTE/VET) options, and a willingness to learn and innovate, combined with school board support and community engagement have resulted in a sustained effort to ensure a good school for every student. In this quest, DPS has become a district demonstrating an ability to adapt and apply outside innovations, as well as spread promising practices across the district, in order to expand access to opportunities.

Symposium goals:

1. A College, Career and Life-Ready System
 - a. Understand DPS context: System successes, emerging learnings, and challenges
 - b. Deep Dive: Excellent schools for all, developing strong school and teacher leaders, and connecting school to career in quality CTE and apprenticeship opportunities
2. Support and Dialogue: Discussion and Feedback with the GCEN network
3. Spread of Learning: Sharing lessons, adaptations, and best practice with other districts focused on implementing apprenticeships and improving CTE

Monday, November 6 Location: Terrace Room, 1380 Lawrence Street #200 Audience: GCEN working group members		
9:00am – 9:30am	Introductions 15 minutes: Overview, introductions of each member/team Review of whole group progress, background of our work in Improvement Science, and goals of the day	Asia Society to facilitate
9:30am – 11:00am	Building Consensus for Change Workshop to learn techniques to support accountable decision-making and building consensus for change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in 4-5 mixed-group teams • Teams pair off to share the products of their workshop experience • Review an active listening tool for next activity 	RQI to facilitate
11:00am – 11:15am	Break	
11:15am – 12:30 pm	Communicate and Share In groups present your work over the last year: Process (25-30 minutes per team): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-minute presentation per team: Review projects and discuss progress/findings and review successes, enabling conditions and barriers (project update templates were sent in advance) • 10 minutes of feedback: Group(s) that are listening will be given a protocol and apply the active listening tool from the morning session to what they are hearing. Share feedback with presenting team. 	
12:30pm – 12:45pm	Reflect: Morning Wrap-Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on the feedback provided • Whole group discussion on what you’ve heard, reflections on patterns or differences across projects re: conditions for success, adjustments to barriers and challenges, and success strategies 	Asia Society to facilitate

12:45pm – 1:45pm	Lunch and team time Ideas for Moving Forward	
1:45pm – 2:30pm	Students learning to ask their own questions: A practical method and an emerging theory of learning	RQI to Facilitate
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Apply: Working Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with your team on next steps of project. Apply learning from today, feedback, and resources (AS to provide example IS cases) • Design a question of focus and next steps in your project 	
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Discussion of Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on process • Options for iterating and scaling • Joint project • Other examples, facilitations or trainings <p>Closing</p>	
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Office Hours/Work Time If they choose, teams can continue to work in the room	

Tuesday, November 7 Location: Terrace Room, 1380 Lawrence Street #200 Audience: All GCEN Teams		
9:00am	Welcome and Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Jackson, Asia Society • Tom Boasberg, DPS • Rebecca Kantor, CU Denver
9:30am– 10:00am	Framing the School Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review information about the schools for the school visits • Each GCEN team will also be responsible for providing feedback to Denver on what it is observing throughout the week; Asia Society will provide a protocol for feedback and each team will be asked to share their findings at the end of the week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susana Cordova, DPS
10:00am– 4:00pm	Depart for School Routes (3-4 routes of 2 schools each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive of lunch at school 	
6:00pm	Dinner on your own	

Wednesday, November 8 Location: Terrace Room, 1380 Lawrence Street #200 Audience: All GCEN Teams		
8:30am– 10:00am	Welcome & Debrief School Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Mackay, Centre for Strategic Education • DPS and Asia Society
10:00am – 10:15am	Coffee/tea break	
10:15am - 11:15am	<p>US State and System Context</p> <p>This session will provide recent (last 10 years) federal and state context that has enabled – or impeded – education reforms and progress in Denver. We will also address questions on current federal context and how this affects districts broadly, and Denver specifically.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Holmes, CEO, Colorado Education Initiative • Dwight Jones, McGraw Hill and former Colorado Department of Education Commissioner • Dr. Paul Teske, Dean School of Public Affairs, CU Denver • Ann Whalen, Deputy Chief of Strategy, Denver Public Schools and former Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education at the US Department of Education <p>Moderator: Anthony Mackay</p>
11:15am– 12:30pm	<p>Understanding Denver</p> <p>This session will explore some of the drivers of improvement in Denver in recent years including:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Boasberg, Superintendent, DPS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political commitment to education reform • School leadership consistency • Portfolio strategy • Commitment to equity; Collaboration Compact • Teacher improvement strategies • School leader improvement strategies • Career technical education and apprenticeships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Kantor, Dean, School of Education and Human Development, CU Denver • Bill Kurtz, Chief Executive Officer, Denver School of Science and Technology • Anne Rowe, President, Denver Public School Board <p>Moderator: Anthony Mackay</p>
<p>12:30pm – 1:30pm</p>	<p>Lunch and GCEN Team Discussions</p>	
<p>1:45pm– 2:45pm</p>	<p>Table Sessions: Informational sessions with key agencies, community leaders, foundations, universities, business partners, and nonprofits that work with DPS. Participants will learn more about the array of organizations working in education in Denver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations for Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Denver Preschool Program ○ Denver Public Schools Early Education • Opportunity Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Padres & Jovenes Unidos • Ready for College & Career <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Denver Scholarship Foundation ○ Community College of Aurora • Support for the Whole Child <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City Year ○ Mayor’s Office for Children’s Affairs • Great Schools in Every Neighborhood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ District-Charter Collaborative 	
<p>2:45pm – 3:00pm</p>	<p>Break</p>	

<p>3:00pm– 5:00pm</p>	<p>Three Concurrent Sessions GCEN system leaders, educators, and partners will present a deeper dive into the following practice areas. All members will have a protocol to present, listen, and discuss.</p>		
<p>6:00pm – 8:00pm</p>	<p>Public Program (open to wider community/university community and press):</p> <p><i>Building Pipelines of Success</i> We will explore school districts and communities around the world that are developing multiple, flexible pathways for young people toward the goal of fulfilling life and work. The discussion will highlight successes and raise challenges for further exploration. Organized by Asia Society and hosted by the University of Colorado Denver. <i>Reception at 6:00</i> <i>Program 6:30 – 8:00</i></p>		<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Boasberg • Noel Ginsburg • Nancy Hoffman • Andi Rugg • Whitney Smith <p>Moderator: Anthony Mackay</p>
<p>Developing Strong School Leaders: Including use of co-leaders and teacher leaders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver: Debbie Hearty and Sarah Almy • Melbourne: Mark Brear and Jeanette Nagorcka <p>Room: 700</p>	<p>Creating a culture of equity and collaboration: Ensuring high-quality schools for all students; strategies of success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver: Susana Cordova, Allen Smith and Mark Ferrandino • Shanghai: Mr. Jiao Xianofeng and Ms. Yun Minxian <p>Room 648</p>	<p>Workplace Learning: Developing opportunities for students to have authentic work experiences; includes discussion of how the Swiss model was adapted to Denver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver: Monica Schultz • Hong Kong: Sheridan Lee • Singapore: Chen Kee Ng <p>Room: 914</p>	

Thursday, November 9	
Location: Terrace Room, 1380 Lawrence Street #200	
Audience: All GCEN Teams	
9:00am – 10:00am	Overview of Work-Based Learning with Careerwise Colorado and DPS CareerConnect DPS CareerConnect Team and Careerwise Colorado
10:00am – 11:30am	Concurrent Panels: CareerConnect Employers, Mentors, and Students share workplace-based learning experiences in two concurrent panels
11:30am – 1:15pm	Lunch and GCEN Team Work Prepare a short presentation which answers the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your top 3 pieces of feedback to Denver based on what you have seen and heard? • How does DPS structure itself to be a learning system? What do you see that is working and what questions do you still have? • What has your team learned to inform your practice and system? How will you apply this learning?
1:15pm – 1:30pm	Break
1:30pm– 3:00pm	GCEN Team Feedback to DPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each GCEN team presents, provides feedback, and asks questions of DPS • Each GCEN team shares their learnings and application to their own system • DPS Team responds
3:00pm– 3:30pm	Wrap Up

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