Learner Centered Education: It’s a Paradigm Shift

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Dr. Trace Pickering, Associate Director, Education Reimagined, Executive Director & Co-Creator of Iowa BIG @edreimagine

bit.ly/PLSWorkshopSurvey #PLSummit
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@edelements

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Connecting Question

What do you most want kids to experience when they are learning?

What matters to you about that?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision stakeholders</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Andrews, Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddie Fennel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief State School Officer RI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter MacWalters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig Berhens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVO Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Sherman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superintendent Cobb County, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Hinojosa</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
OUR PURPOSE is to accelerate the growth and impact of the learner-centered education movement in the United States by:

• Finding and encouraging learner-centered pioneers;
• Bringing diverse movement pioneers together; and
• Sharing the possibility of learner-centered education.
What do you have to know, do and be like to be a successful adult & citizen?
What strikes you about the list we just created?

What do you notice about our list?
What are the assumptions about school, learning, and learners that form the current design of the American school?
Reforming to Transforming: A difference that makes all the difference.
Reform

**Root-word “RE”** means to “go back” or “do again.” Words like revisit, revise, review, reallocate, rebrand, renew, report, and reform.

Suggests not a complete “do-over” but to go back and try again—to tweak, adjust, adapt, or fix.

**Reform:**
- make changes in order to improve it.
- the improvement or amendment of what is wrong, corrupt, unsatisfactory, etc.:
- to put an end to (an evil) by enforcing or introducing a better method or course of action
Reform is about adjusting and playing with the means of a system, not the ends.
Root-word “TRANS” means to means to “go across.” Like transatlantic, transition, transfer, transport, transact.

Suggests not “going back” but moving forward to something new—note the emphasis isn’t on the “how” or the inputs, but on the end game.

Transform:
• changes in character or condition;
• to make a thorough or dramatic change in the form, appearance, or character of;
• changing the characteristics so as to change the use or purpose.
Reforming the airplane to reach the moon.
Transformation means a whole new world of possibility
What thoughts and ideas resonate with you?
What causes dissonance?
What questions do you have?
Assumptions
“School” is how we currently imagine it. “It” is failing so we need to “fix” it. We do more of the same and focus on the inputs.
The original function of the modern public school remains unchanged: to **sort** and **select** and **differentiate** students along an assumed “**average**” based on the belief that **intelligence is fixed**.
My Story
School Reform

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industrial Model of Schools Created</th>
<th>Everything is designed to give every child access to the same education. Differences between students show up as problems for the system. Students who excel are deemed smart.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reform Movement</td>
<td>Seeks to go from providing the same access to providing the same results to every child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“21st Century Student Outcomes Movement”</td>
<td>Seeks to update what results are considered satisfactory.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The system has to be reimagined.
A Learner-Centered Paradigm...
## The paradigm shift

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASPECT</th>
<th>CURRENT PARADIGM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World View</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frame of Reference</td>
<td>Factories and Assembly Lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model</td>
<td>SCHOOL-CENTRIC</td>
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<td>All components of the system are designed for efficiency of education delivery in the context of standardized schools.</td>
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<td>Move all children from 1st grade to 12th grade successfully</td>
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The paradigm shift

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<td>World View</td>
<td>Industrial Age</td>
<td>Networked Age</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frame of Reference</td>
<td>Factories and Assembly Lines</td>
<td>Networks and Lateral Connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model</td>
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<td>LEARNER-CENTRIC</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>All components of the system are designed for efficiency of education delivery in the context of standardized schools.</td>
<td>All components are designed for the education experience to be adaptable to the needs and strengths of each learner and support the highest outcomes for each and every learner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Challenge</td>
<td>Move all children from 1st grade to 12th grade successfully</td>
<td>Enable each unique child to learn successfully and be lifelong learners</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The work of education is learning.
Education is done by & with the learner.
All kids are unique, capable, curious, and wondrous.
FIVE INTERRELATED ELEMENTS

- Competency-based
- Personalized, Relevant & Contextualized
- Learner Agency
- Socially Embedded
- Open-Walled

OUTCOMES

Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions
Here’s what this looks like at Iowa BIG.
Iowa BIG
Public • 3 Districts • 5 High Schools • 120 Learners
MINNOW TANK

April 13th, 2017
4:30-6:30
Metro Economic Alliance
501 1st St SE

BIG

IOWA
Based on what you observed, list the ways the 5 elements are present at Iowa BIG?
Learner-Centered Education

FIVE INTERRELATED ELEMENTS
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OUTCOMES
- Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions
TABLE CONVERSATION

Share your reactions.
What are you wondering about?
What resonates with you?
Where is there dissonance for you?
Here’s what is emerging in other parts of the country.
OTHER PIONEERING EFFORTS & ENVIRONMENTS

ReSchool Colorado, CO
LRNG, nine cities
Taylor County Schools, KY
Lindsey Unified SD, CA
Based on what you’ve seen and heard today what 3 things will you do next week?
This is an idea whose time has come. We are looking for the pioneers. Are you one?

Contact Us!
www.education-reimagined.org
Thank you!

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