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ADVOCATE
for THRIVING
STUDENTS

Using Peer-to-Peer Networks to Drive Response Efforts in a K-12 Setting

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It's been a long 3.25 years!

What you're most proud of this school year?

How did you help a young person or young

people thrive?

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Hello, I'm Diana.

- School administrator: school health services, COVID-19, SBHCs, FERPHA, 504 plans, wellness, HIV/STI prevention, parenting students and LGBTQ issues.
- National expert on transgender accommodations and school health equity.
- 25+ years working at intersection of health and education equity
- DC parent of a college junior and one freshly graduated pediatric ER nurse!

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Why do I do this?

Our job is to ensure
every student learns;
to learn, *they* must thrive.

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Why do you do what you do?

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My approach

pair radical **empathy** with
sound public policy to
engage **communities** in
creating **student-centered solutions**

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Agenda

- 1 What Is a Peer Learning Network
- 2 Determining Need and Purpose
- 3 Engaging Learners and Growing Community
- 4 Evolving Your Network With the Student in Mind

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Peer Learning Networks

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What is a Peer Learning Network?

A group of industry specific professionals that come together to discuss a particular complex issues with a focus on whole group betterment.



How COVID-19 Changed the Equation

Virtual is key, especially across distance.

Working in silos isn't effective, takes too long.



Why Peer Learning Networks?

Don't have to reinvent the wheel

Gain Support and Community

Workshop Model

Community *not* Competition



Why Peer Learning Networks?

It helps you get to the student-centered solution faster.

Two heads are better than one.

Time was of the essence.

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Where our Path Led Us

Rockefeller Foundation/Brown University:
Cross-City Learning Collaborative
[COVID-19 Learning Network](#)
[STAT Network](#)

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Where our Path Led Us



Sharing messages about testing

CIVITAS
Cities Networks for Health

Utilize student ambassadors, community leaders, and healthcare providers to share messaging about testing.

Diana Bruce
Learning Network Lead Facilitator,
School Health Advisor coordinating
COVID-19 response with DC schools

ROCKEFELLER
FOUNDATION

vimeo

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We Took What We Learned on the Road

DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education:
[D.C. COVID-19 Response Collaborative](#)

DC Public Charter School Board:
School Health Communities of Practice

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We Took What We Learned on the Road



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All across the country



We came to learn, to share, to figure out what to do.
Why?
To make our schools safe for school staff and students.
But ...
We didn't start at the same place. So, let's back up.



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Determining
the Need and
Purpose

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How Did I Bring My Approach



empathy: we're all approaching the issue from a different
starting point **public policy:** authority to implement
testing, public health guidance **communities:** peer
networks **student-centered solutions:** keep
school staff and students safe at school



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Empathy Is Hard Right Now

It's been a rough three years.

Compassion fatigue is real.

Take your time.

Have empathy for those you're asking empathy of.



Policy was Clear(ish)

CDC Guidance

CLIA rules

State-level laws

Parental consent



Identify the Need (Pain Points)

What problem needs to be solved?

What are the biggest fears?



Identifying the Need

Don't assume these groups don't
already exist!
(double negative, *with feeling*)

Determining the Purpose

What questions need to be answered?
What does success look like?
Bring in empathy: success for whom?



What is a need that exists within
your school community?



Growing
Community and
Engaging Learners

Growing Community

Be Human
Relationships are Key
Listen First
Allow for Fun!





Growing Intentionally

Keeping Empathy as the Foundation

Reconnect with Stakeholders Often

More Voices = More Buy In



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Have a Plan

Use Network Models Already in Place

Robust Pre and Post Briefs

Plan - Implement - Measure



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Engage Experts

Bring in Experts and Thought Leaders

Leverage Partnerships

Facilitate Thoughtfully



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Quick Tips for Engagement

Break Out Rooms

Zoom Polls

Google Forms

Pre Registration

Chat function

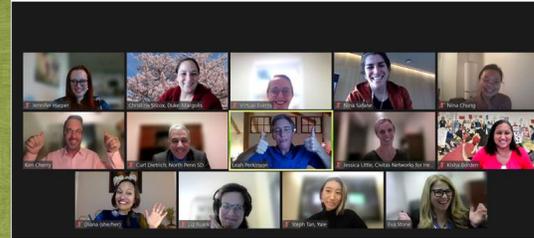
Ice Breakers



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What Engagement Strategies have you tried? Which do you like best?

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Evolving Your Network, With the Student-Centered Solution in Mind

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What is a Student- Centered Solution?

Solutions and policies that keep the student's well being and success at the forefront.

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What was our why?

We needed a student AND STAFF-centered solution.

Make our school safe for school staff and students to return.

To monitor incidence and outbreaks.

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Networks as Tool for Student Success

We are better together.

Keep the individual as the focus.

Solutions and next steps grounded in empathy.

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Evolving and Ending

Continually Check in on

Need

Purpose

Cadence

and Document and Share

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Advocacy

Don't allow issues to end
in your group

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Pro Tips

Start with Relationships

Start 3 Mins Late (and end on time)

Tech is Your Friend

Have Fun! (polls and snowpeople)

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Where could you really use a learning network to work on a challenge within your community?

Questions?

Resources

RESOURCES



SLIDES



Thank you.

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- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)
- Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)

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