Timeless Learning

Creating a Culture for Child-Centered Education

@pammoran
pmoran@vascl.org
Reimagining Learning Spaces Without Busting the Budget

Virginia Association for Learning Environments Mid-year Conference
"We too often consult our own convenience, rather than the comfort, welfare, or accommodation of our children"
- William Alcott - 1832
How does a child get ready for a VUCA world?
Today’s Objectives

Ours: Provoke New Thought Pathways
Yours: Turn Provocation into Next Step Actions
"We’re not lazier or less intelligent than our parents or grandparents, but what worked for them simply won’t do the trick for us now. Understanding and adapting to these factors isn’t optional; it will be what differentiates success from failure in the years ahead."

- McChrystal: Team of Teams: New Rules of Engagement for a Complex World
McChrystal: *Team of Teams: New Rules of Engagement for a Complex World*
Learning Framework for Organizational Change

Provocation - construct beliefs
Observe Current State - challenge knowledge
Structured Inquiry - assess the current state
Zero-Based Thinking - imagine the dream state
Structured Action - reflect on and align the 4Ps
Insurgent Mission - activate the organization
Change Learning
Change Change Space
Provocation - Roaming our Students’ Century

What three high priority competencies do you notice being used and that you believe all learners need to develop as part of their education today.
Provocation - Roaming our Students’ Century

Inquiry: Think about why you picked these three high priority competencies and not others. How important are these for today’s learners? Why?

- Pair with someone
- Pick one competency
- Share your why
## Top 10 job skills for the fourth industrial revolution

*World Economic Forum*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>in 2020</th>
<th>in 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Complex Problem Solving</td>
<td>1. Complex Problem Solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Critical Thinking</td>
<td>2. Coordinating with Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Creativity</td>
<td>3. People Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. People Management</td>
<td>4. Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Coordinating with Others</td>
<td>5. Negotiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Emotional Intelligence</td>
<td>6. Quality Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Judgment and Decision Making</td>
<td>7. Service Orientation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“We were a great 20th Century Organization”

How do you shift organizational beliefs so that they work for the future.

What is your “limfac”? 
## Successful Transformation for 2100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools Now or in the Past</th>
<th>Now and in the Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Personal Autonomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Networked and Interconnected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nonlinear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agile and Adaptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regard for Team Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cultural Intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shared Cognition and Consciousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Everyone leads (#3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Timeless Learning Questions

If *this* no longer existed, what would we do?

How would *this* benefit learners? How would we know?

What limiting factors and barriers are there to change? How do we address those barriers?

Who needs to be at the table to work on *this*?

What else will need to change - 4Ps - assessment, analysis, alignment.
What is Timeless Learning?
Imagination
Observation
Zero-Based Thinking
Timeless Learning Design Principles:

- Social Learning
- Community Cognition
- Naturally Paced - Non-Temporal
- Contextual
- Multiage - Aspirational Peers
- Image Based
Timeless Learning Pathways:

Play
Story/Acting
Making
Movement
Imitation
Experimentation
Mentorship/Internship
Getting to:
What do you want your children to be?
WELCOME to class!

WE CAN BE dreamers
WE CAN BE creative
WE CAN BE writers
WE CAN BE scholars
WE CAN BE kind
WE CAN BE inventors
WE CAN BE helpers
WE CAN BE giving
WE CAN BE friends

TOGETHER WE CAN BE anything!
"We’re not lazier or less intelligent than our parents or grandparents, but what worked for them simply won’t do the trick for us now. Understanding and adapting to these factors isn’t optional; it will be what differentiates success from failure in the years ahead."

- McChrystal: *Team of Teams: New Rules of Engagement for a Complex World*

What can you observe about the 4Ps from viewing these learning spaces?
The Un-asked Questions
Beginning Zero-Based Thinking
"The "first technology" of school is time. That division of "educational time" from other time, and the divisions therein: days and weeks, semesters and years. "It's time for reading but not science, science but not physical education, history but not literature."

"Time is the "first technology" because it is the most controlling of all the structures which define "school." Learning is timeless. It exists in its own temporal zone, unique to each individual, and different for each thing "learned." But school is all about the clock." - Socol 2012
The School Day
Assess: *The School Day* - Roaming the Known

What is your school day? How would you describe it to someone who had no knowledge of it. When does it start? When does it finish? How is it divided? What do students do?
The Business Day
The Business Day
Analyze and Reflect: The School Day - Roaming the Known

Why do all students start school at the same time?
Why isn’t high school scheduled like college?
Why can’t elementary students spend all day with one team of teachers?
Why do we schedule eating?
Why is the school day “x” many hours?
If your philosophy is to empower kids for life:
What policies must change?
How must professional learning change?
How must professional expectations change?
How must practice change?
*Insurgent Mission*: Building the Unknown

If you could build an educational environment from scratch... What would it look like? Sound like? Work like? What would time be like?
Invention
- curiosities, questions, ideas that fuel creative, rapid prototyping

Innovation
- scaling creativity as prototypes across the system

Strategic
- moving our creativity into systems-thinking

Operations
- embedding creative solutions into expected practice
Thank You

SocolMoran.com
© 2018 Socol Moran Partners LLC