

Youth Development Work Group NEWS

Where/When Learning Happens - Focusing Frame for the Ready by 21 National Meeting

We were so glad to see many of you at the **2019 Ready by 21 National Meeting** in Seattle! If you were there, you know that our conference themes were readiness, equity, quality, and partnerships - our evergreen themes to help change the odds for young people. This year, we linked them directly to the SEAD Commission's "where/when" graphic and the Science of Learning & Development Initiative's brain research resources as the through story for all four of the plenary sessions. On Wednesday (the first full day), we engaged key partners in this work - Hal Smith (National Urban League), Pam Cantor and Michael Lamb (Turnaround for Children), Camille Farrington (Chicago Consortium), Valerie Kinloch (U. of Pittsburgh School of Education) - in discussions about how K-12 educators, advocates, TA providers, and schools of education can actively embrace and advance this broader vision. We also held a **strategy lunch** with key partners where we received valuable feedback on our vision for leveraging the Commission's work and on opportunities to advance work in the Commission's recommendation areas in ways that engage school and community partners. On Thursday, we heard from Hilary Salmons (Providence After School Alliance) and a panel of youth and adult champions on advocating and mobilizing for more and better learning opportunities. Following Karen's closing keynote exploring these topics, Merita and Priscilla facilitated a well-attended **Ideas to Impact Super Session** in which participants explored how to make the case using Commission graphics and other key frames (Foundations for Young Adult Success, Building Blocks for Learning and Preparing Youth to Thrive).

Aligning Partnerships

As noted in our last update, we continue to move forward closely with Hal Smith and the team at the **National Urban League (NUL)** to bring together the work of the Youth Development Work Group and the Equity Work Group. We are linking arms so that, collectively with you, we can not only sustain but deepen the discussions about how community partners are critical to any educational equity agenda. We have both recently been invited to join the advisory group of the **Science of Learning and Development (SoLD) Initiative** and, as noted above, highlighted the work of SoLD at the Ready by 21 National Meeting. (We've included the announcement and resource page from Pamela Cantor, founder and senior science advisor at Turnaround for Children and SoLD partner, in the key resources section, as outlined below.)

We've also received a number of inquiries from you about the connections with **America's Promise Alliance (APA)** since the announcement that they were receiving a one year grant to support the use of the SEAD Commissions assets (For the announcement, click [here](#). For the initiative page, click [here](#)). We, along with Hal Smith, met with John Gomperts and Monika Kincheloe in mid-April to brief them on the work of the Youth Development and Equity Work Groups and assess opportunities for aligning efforts. We all agreed that the work going forward should have a more explicit focus on equity, that a broad "how learning happens" frame that transcends preK-12 settings is the best way to engage the full APA membership, and that there is a need to deepen the work around youth engagement and community ownership. Since that meeting, John Gomperts attended the Ready by 21 National Meeting and Karen Pittman presented the

SEAD Commission's recommendations and frames at the APA Trustees meeting (May 2nd), distributing the 4-page "graphics" handout which was well-received (See resources below). We are all in agreement that this work needs to and will be fully incorporated. The Forum and NUL will likely be among a small group of organizations that comprise a core group to advise APA on the How Learning Happens Initiative, keep APA informed about initiatives they undertake, and maximize coordination of efforts, including but not limited to outreach, communications and member engagement. This explicit connection will help with leveraging efforts from the evolving YDWG as we move forward.

Collateral Materials

We've noted a number of materials and information above, and would like to ensure you have easy access. Temporarily, all of the listed resources can be found on our website [here](#). They include:

SEAD Commission

- **Introduction to SEAD Commission Work - PowerPoint.** This presentation serves as an introduction to the story of the commission in a way that highlights the work of the YD and equity work groups.
- **Graphics cheat sheets.** This four page handout will help you in using the SEAD Commission's graphics to inform conversations about readiness, quality, equity and engagement.
- **Buildable graphics in PowerPoint.** Through our work over the past few months, we have adapted various versions of the SEAD graphics and hope they may be of use to you all.
- **Discussion handouts.** One pagers dedicated to the SEAD graphics that provide context and explanations to spur discussions for youth development professionals around the ideas embedded in the graphics.

Additional resources.

- **Links to key resources.** These are the resources that we have used alongside the SEAD materials in making the case to our audiences (SEAD reports, key frameworks, and more).

More to come.

- **Presentation Slide Library with talking points.** We are in the process of developing a slide library based on recent presentations. The slide library will include individual slides and talking points, as well as guidance on sets of slides that build on each other to make the case for equitable learning environments.

Funding

As you know from our previous update, we've been working behind the scenes with funders to ensure that the momentum gained through our focused work together is not lost but leveraged. The Bechtel bridge grant has been essential and conversations with additional funders are underway. Combined, we are confident that we can, for the near term, provide a level of support comparable to that offered previously. The funding commitments in hand, and in process, are aimed at:

- reconnecting with you - the members of the Youth Development Work Group - to affirm the direction and priorities to guide our near term collaborative work,
- creating simple, but effective tools that help all of us translate the Commission's work into action agendas that resonate with community partners,
- jump starting small collaborative projects that reflect the priorities of this group as well as suggestions gathered from the field since the October launch event,
- providing others with the supports needed to respond to requests for presentations and meetings.

We are incredibly excited about this work and the year to come!