

Learning Journeys, May 15, 2014

Everything except Drexel included below.

NextFab Studio, 10:00AM-12:00PM

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IndyHall, 9:30AM-12:00PM

Alex Hillman, Founder
22 N. 3rd St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(267) 702-4865
484-597-6256 (cell)
alex@indyhall.org

Netter Center, 9:30AM-12:00 PM

Cory Bowman, Associate Director
133 South 36th Street, Suite 519
Phone: 215-898-0289
bowman@upenn.edu

DVFS, 9:30AM-12:00PM

David Calamaro, Assistant Head and Academic Dean
Delaware Valley Friends School
19 E. Central Ave.
Paoli, PA 19301
610-640-4150 ext. 2340
610-637-4353 (cell)
david.calamaro@dvfs.org

Comcast, 12:00-2:00PM

Eileen Dolente, Executive Producer
Susan M. Arnholt, Events Manager
Comcast Corporation
1701 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, 42nd Fl
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.286.7710
susan_arnholt@comcast.com

Science Leadership Academy, 9:30AM-12:00PM

Jeremy Spry, Program Coordinator
www.scienceleadership.org/
55 N. 22nd St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: 215.979.5620
Fax: 215.567.2809

Children's Village, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Mary Graham, Executive Director
125 North 8th Street, 2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA
19106
direct: (215) 931-0197
maryg@childrensvillagephila.org
www.childrensvillagephila.org

RJ Metrics, 10:00-11:00AM

Lisa Della Porta, Administrative Coordinator
267.368.7555
lisa@rjmetrics.com
1339 Chestnut St #1500, Philadelphia, PA 19107
(877) 684-1394

LMSD LEARNING JOURNEYS & STARTING QUESTIONS

1. **NextFab** (nextfab.com) – “A gym for innovators.” NextFab’s mission is to foster innovation and manufacturing as key elements of our nation’s identity and economy, through providing broad-based awareness of, competence with, and access to Next-generation digital design and Fabrication technologies and services.

Leader: Liz Alperin Solms

- *How do we create an environment that promotes and values innovation and new ways of organizing work?*
- *What can we learn about being a “hub” of innovation and excellence?*
- *What is the culture that supports innovation?*
- *How do we create an environment that maximizes available resources – facilities and human?*
- *How do we develop more collaborative learning opportunities? What are the conditions that support collaboration?*
- *How do you get people to buy in to sharing resources and ideas?*
- *What does it mean to be a NextFab member? What does the brand “promise”?*
- *Is there anything we can learn at NextFab about strategies for building resilience, grit and problem-solving skills?*
- *What can we learn about “learning by doing?”*

2. **Indy Hall** (indyhall.org) -- We are a community of people who choose to work together, more productively, to make our work, our lives, our cities and communities better. Indy Hall’s community is the intersection of designers, developers, writers, artists, entrepreneurs, scientists, educators, small business owners, telecommuters, marketers, videographers, game developers, and more.

Leader: Marie McCormick

- *How do we create more frequent, productive opportunities for collaboration (staff/administration, teachers/parents, school/community)?*
- *How do we create more frequent, productive opportunities for collaboration among and between stakeholders (staff/administration, teachers/parents, school/community?)*
- *How do we identify and leverage the diverse talents and skills of our stakeholders to enhance student learning opportunities and experiences?*
- *How do we create a distinct “LMSD” culture that values “what’s good for all” and how you get people to buy in to that culture?*
- *How do we get people to trust what we are doing? How do we build trust among stakeholders?*

3. **RJ Metrics** (rjmetrics.com) – RJ Metrics helps online businesses make smarter decisions with their data. We provide the kinds of deep insights that were formerly only accessible by large companies willing to invest in full-time data scientists. With RJ Metrics, any company can become truly data-driven.

Leader: Doug Young

- *How do we develop assessment tools that are specific to/meet the unique needs of Lower Merion?*
- *How can we better measure non-academic/non-cognitive indicators like grit, resilience and problem-solving?*
- *How would RJMetrics address data around social and emotional health?*
- *For organizations that are data-rich, information poor, how can we make our data more accessible and usable?*
- *How do we make best use of/effectively share data so that it is alive and means something – and drives decision-making?*

4. **Comcast** (comcast.corporate.com) – Comcast brings together the best in media and technology. We drive innovation to create the world's best entertainment and online experiences.

Leader: Wagner Marseille

- *How does an established organization plan for transformational change and growth (staffing, culture, etc.)? How will changes in communications technology impact the way we deliver curriculum and content?*
- *How does a regional cable company transform into a global media and technology company?*
- *How does an established organization plan for transformational change and growth? We want to be known as a District that is leading the way in teaching and learning; how did you create an organization that is a global leader in its field/s?*
- *How do we attract and retain game-changing employees – staff members who will help us innovate and create positive change?*
- *As we prepare students to compete and succeed in a global economy, what kinds of skills, attitudes and abilities does a global organization like Comcast look for in its hires?*
- *How will changes in communications technology impact the way we deliver curriculum and content?*
- *As we look to re-position our brand, are there lessons we can learn from Comcast's re-branding to Xfinity?*

5. **Science Leadership Academy** (scienceleadership.org) – The Science Leadership Academy is a partnership high school between the School District of Philadelphia and The Franklin Institute. SLA is an inquiry-driven, project-based high school focused on 21st century learning that opened its doors on September 7, 2006. SLA provides a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum with a focus on science, technology, mathematics and entrepreneurship. Students at SLA learn in a project-based environment where the core values of inquiry, research, collaboration, presentation and reflection are emphasized in all classes.

Leader: Joanna Wexler

- *How might we integrate theme-based learning throughout the education experience?*
- *How do we address the holistic needs of our children—social, emotional, physical?*
- *How do we create more opportunities for interdisciplinary, team-based learning experiences?*
- *How do we better address the holistic needs of our children – social, emotional, physical?*
- *What are some of the pros and cons of self-directed learning?*

6. **Delaware Valley Friends School** (dvfs.org) – DVFS is a national leader in the field of educating students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, executive function disorders, and other language-based learning differences. DVFS delivers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum using research-based instructional methods and innovative assistive technologies to help students build the skills they will need to become successful adults and life-long learners. Our teaching professionals developed the DVFS Adolescent Literacy Program to address the specific needs of students in the middle and high school years.

Leader: Gwen Nartowicz

- *How do we address the specialized learning needs of children with learning differences*
- *How do we address the holistic needs of our children?*
- *How do we create the most effective environment for addressing the holistic needs of our children?*
- *How do we ensure that all students are encouraged to partake in/have access to rigorous academic experiences?*
- *How does DVFS measure success related to social, emotional physical health?*
- *How do we teach/instill a sense of community?*

7. **The Netter Center for Community Partnerships** – UPENN (nettercenter.upenn.edu) -- Founded in 1992, the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships is Penn's primary vehicle for bringing to bear the broad range of human knowledge needed to solve the complex, comprehensive, and interconnected problems of the American city so that West Philadelphia (Penn's local geographic community), Philadelphia, the University itself, and society benefit.

Leader: Gerry Fitzpatrick-Doria

- *How do we identify and create community partnerships that will enable the District to create a more sustainable, successful experience for students?*
- *How do we identify and create community partnerships that will enable the District to enhance the student learning experience, strengthen community ties and support fiscal sustainability?*
- *How do we create environment that promotes greater positive social change and impact?*
- *What value do we place on community service? How can service be more effectively tied to the curriculum?*
- *How can we make a more meaningful impact on Lower Merion and the communities beyond our school boundaries?*
- *How do we create a stronger, shared sense of community in Lower Merion?*
- *How do we foster an environment where students and community members are loyal to, stay involved with and provide future support of LMSD?*

8. **Children's Village.** (<http://www.childrensvillagephila.org/about-us>) We are a non-profit organization (in Chinatown) providing high-quality early childhood education to young children and educational enrichment to school-age children for families of all economic levels and diverse backgrounds.

Leader: Dan Martino

- *What would the impact on the achievement gap be if we ensured high quality pre-k education to all students in the District?*
- *What would the impact on the achievement gap be if we ensured high quality pre-k education to all students?*
- *As our population continues to change, what are strategies that we can learn for addressing the needs of a diverse population with a variety of needs?*
- *How does Children's Village measure success in its students and as an organization?*
- *How do we better get to know and understand our students and families before they enter our buildings?*
- *What are the funding sources available for supporting pre-k programs in our community?*
- *How do we develop stronger school-family-community partnerships?*

9. **Drexel College of Computing & Informatics (iSchool)** The College of Computing and Informatics serves as a central hub for multi-disciplinary computing and informatics activities by uniting the faculty, staff and students from the iSchool, “The College of Computing and Informatics is an important locus for innovation—from big data to software development to cybersecurity and much more—that allows Drexel’s talented community of researchers and scholars to address global challenges through their research, learning and socio-technical innovations.”

Leader: Chris Hall

- *How do we identify and make better use of the data needed to inform decisions about student learning and achievement?*
- *What are critical skills related to information technology that all students should have upon graduation from high school?*
- *How do you stay ahead of “what’s next” – anticipating change instead of reacting, particularly with regard to curriculum? What should we know about online education?*
- *What’s essential and what isn’t in creating a successful experience for students and faculty?*
- *How do you prepare students for the global workforce?*