

# Bridging the Gap: Bringing Educators into the Conversation

Jennifer Mayo, EdD, ALEP  
Robert Allen, AIA, LEED AP, GCP, WELL AP

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Welcome!  
Consider  
sitting with  
folks who  
are new to  
you!

Do we want  
educators  
involved with  
A4LE?

If so, why?

If why, how?

## Mission & Vision

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The Association for Learning Environments is a professional 501 (c)(3) non-profit association.

### Our Core Purpose

To strengthen learning for all through better environments.

### Mission

An interdisciplinary association of professionals working at the intersection of learning and place to drive the evolution of learning environments.

### Core Values

**LEARNERS FIRST** achieved by recognizing students as the ultimate beneficiaries of our work; demonstrated when planners, designers, builders, and school systems think first about the needs of students.

**DIVERSITY**, with the intent of fostering equity and inclusion, achieved by deliberately and authentically engaging all voices and perspectives; demonstrated when everybody's ideas, suggestions, and recommendations are heard and valued.

**INNOVATION** achieved through the exploration of opportunities at the intersection of learning and place; demonstrated when the value of place in learning is recognized and our work strengthens learning for all through exceptional environments.

**COLLABORATION, COLLEGIALITY, CONNECTION** achieved through the sharing of ideas, resources, and values; demonstrated when our members operate seamlessly across market sectors and geographic boundaries.

**RESPECT** achieved through recognition and acceptance of ideas, thoughts, and perspectives that differ from your own; demonstrated when a culture exists where new ideas and perspectives are embraced and welcomed.

**PLACE MATTERS** achieved through alignment of learning and place; demonstrated when the value of place in learning is recognized and our work strengthens learning for all through better environments.



# Land acknowledgement



The land now known as Portland sits on territory of the original peoples of this land - the Multnomah, Wasco, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Cowlitz, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other Tribes who made their homes along the Columbia (Wimahl) and Willamette (Whilamut) rivers.

This area was originally populated by many Indigenous people, who lived and thrived in a profound, complex, and interdependent relationship with the land and the other beings here - long before white colonial settlement. The Indigenous people are still here and are still connected to this land.

# Session Agenda

**Intros, Goals, Session plan**

**Who is in the room — establish connections and perspectives**

**Board motivation, purpose**

**Jennifer motivation, purpose**

**The bigger conversation: educator involvement in A4LE**

- Why do we want educators?
- Barriers to educator involvement
- Benefits to educators
- Priorities for educator involvement
- Action plan

**Closing & small steps**

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# Session Goals

## Learning Objectives:

1. Gain understanding of the educator perspective in A4LE.
2. Collaborate with AEC colleagues to better connect with and be more informed about end users by considering how an Educator-At-Large board member can support participation in A4LE programs such as SchoolsNEXT Design Competition.
3. Participate in a generative process leading to identification of priorities for educator involvement.
4. Identify and commit to at least two specific steps to more effectively connect with educators in their areas.

## Call to Action:

1. Participants will identify at least two specific steps they can personally take to more effectively connect with educators in their areas.
2. Participants will deeply consider the teacher as direct link to student success.
3. Participants will bring back to their Chapters, workplaces, etc experience learned from our chapter in establishing the Educator-At-Large position, with the aim of greater educator involvement across our organization.

# Who's in the room?

Are familiar with the idea of Buildings as Teaching Tools?

Architects

Interior Designers

Been to a session like this before?

Others?

Knows a teacher you could talk with?

Educators - Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Content Specialists

School District Facilities - Directors, Project Managers

School District Administrators - Principals, Directors, Superintendents

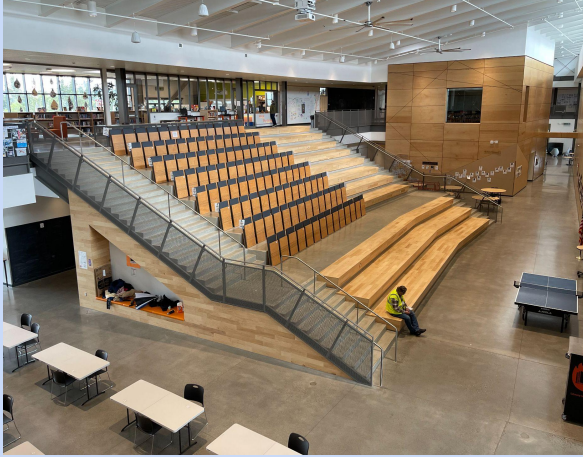
Been to this conference before?

Engineers

Industry Partners



# What the Design Team Thinks/What the Teacher Thinks



# Why an Educator-at-Large Board Position?

Board/ Robert's Motivation



Educator/ Jennifer's Motivation





# Barriers to Educator Involvement



Oh, by  
the  
way...

# Benefits to Educator Involvement

## Benefits for A4LE:

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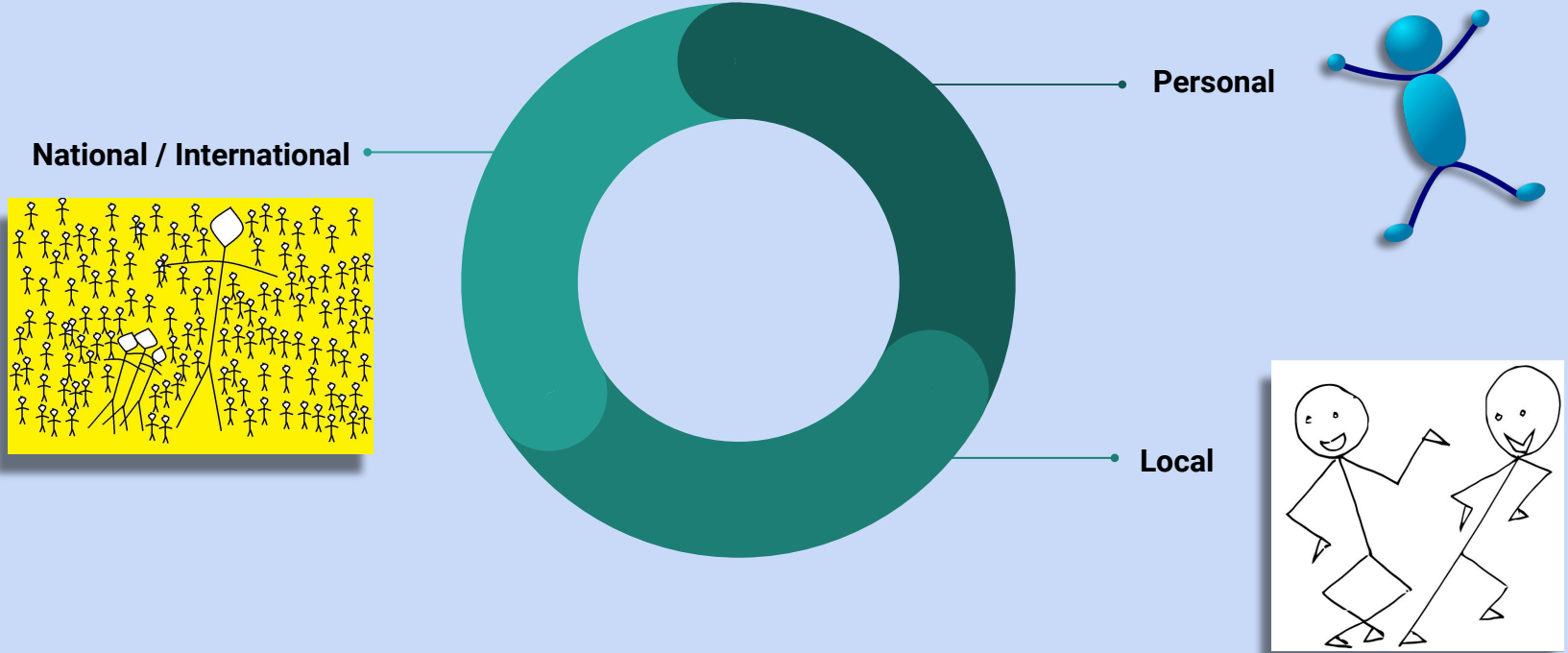
## Benefits for educators:

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# Establishing Priorities for Educator Involvement



# Creating Your Action Plan

Now you might consider collaborating with colleagues from your chapter, firm, or area.

## Action Plan

What do you want to try in the next year (on your own, with your firm, with your chapter, nationally)?

Why do you want to do this? What is your goal or top priority?

How will you reduce barriers to participation for educators, while also articulating benefits?

Who can help you?

How will you know you've been successful? Identify at least one specific measure of success.

If I do ____:	Then I will impact ____ in these ways:	Resulting in ____:	Leading to ____, which is the big goal.

## Small Steps for Action:

Next week:	The week after:	Next month:	By the end of the year:

# Example action plan

If I do ____:	Then I will impact ____ in these ways:	Resulting in ____:	Leading to ____, which is the big goal.
If I reach out to the Focus group teachers...	I'll impact my local chapter by gaining additional teacher perspectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board members talking 2 teachers</li><li>• Teachers talking 2 teachers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board discussion about teacher involvement</li><li>• Teacher-designed involvement</li></ul>
<b>Small Steps for Action:</b>			
<b>Next week:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• email the Focus Group</li></ul>	<b>The week after:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• share email + teacher responses 2 Board</li></ul>	<b>Next month:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get on Dec Board Mtg agenda</li></ul>	<b>By the end of the year:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• set up 2 listening/learning sessions 1 2 Board 1 2 teachers</li></ul>





Image

## Action Items:

1. Turn in your handout (now!)
  2. Complete your next week task
  3. Email us when you do that and tell us how it went
  4. Get on the agenda for your chapter's next board meeting
  5. Watch the mail for a letter from us!
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Thank you!

We're looking forward to continuing this conversation!



Jennifer Mayo:

[drjsmayo@gmail.com](mailto:drjsmayo@gmail.com)

Robert Allen:

[robert.allen@bric-arch.com](mailto:robert.allen@bric-arch.com)

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