GLOBAL SCIENCE OF LEARNING EDUCATION NETWORK UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020 MOVING FORWARD IN 2021

As the world moves from the education triage in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to building more transformative and equitable education systems, this brief Global Science of Learning Education Network (GSoLEN) newsletter will review recent accomplishments and upcoming actions.

2020 presented an unprecedented shared education upheaval. In March, UNESCO projected that 1.5 billion students and over 60 million teachers had been ripped from their classrooms. For 2021, there has never been a greater opportunity for the world's science of learning researchers to work with educators, policymakers, and philanthropists to rebuild education systems that truly meet students' learning needs.

Important achievements in 2020:

- **Conducted a series of videoconferences** on COVID-related topics,

  - *Role of the global science of learning during great education and economic upheaval* with OECD's Andreas Schleicher.
  - *Supporting Teachers Through Global Challenges with the Science of Learning* in partnership with the International Mind, Brain, and Education Society (IMBES) with presentations by Roberto Lent (Brazil) and Sonia Guerriero (UNESCO).
  - *Global Connections between COVID, Poverty, and Science of Learning* with presentations by Sebastian Lipina (Argentina), Elena Pasquinelli (France), and Kumar Garg (Schmidt Futures).

- **Created first international working group** to address specific challenges identified by the GSoLEN Advisory Group. **The Teacher Support Network (TSN)** is focusing on positive relationships in an era of distant learning, both

with students and among teachers. The TSN has developed a report entitled *Feeling Connected Matters for Lifelong Learning and Professional Satisfaction* that will be joined with videos providing strategies in the virtual and hybrid learning environments. All work products will be shared through the GSoLEN website and various networks.

- **Began development of advanced technology infrastructure to create a Global Science of Learning "Community Square"** with discussion rooms, working tools, secure data storage and sharing, and an embedded members-only section. This can be integrated with a high-performance supercomputing environment, in anticipation of large capacity data science needs of our future.

- **Teamed** with our members' networks in Brazil, Argentina, and Hong Kong to participate in global science of learning for education virtual conferences.

- **Received initial sponsorship and seed funding.** Many thanks to the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Enfranchisement Foundation, and significant in-kind support from University of California San Diego and others. Additional funding is now being sought as working groups form around key issues and the Community Square infrastructure is developed.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR 2021:

- **Conducting series of videoconferences focused on applying science of learning to post- COVID education decisions.** Topics will come from the network. A series of videoconferences on distance learning and the science of learning begins Jan. 26 when GSOLEN partners with Forum for World Education to explore lessons from *How People Learn II* can be applied to distance learning.

- **Building the first stage of the Community Square technology infrastructure.** With discussions underway with key technology partners, the infrastructure will be built in stages that are determined by need. The first stage will be upgrading the website and providing an embedded members-only section with discussion boards and working tools. Another stage is building the media center or an embedded YouTube channel to disseminate the working network's work product. At the same time, plans for secure data storage and ultimate supercomputing capabilities will be completed and

- **Recruiting senior fellows to support GSoLEN activities.** GSoLEN is fortunate to have Winsome Waite Ph.D serving in early 2021 as senior advisor in organizing the working groups. Other graduate students have begun assisting with GSoLEN activities. One benefit of a robust fellows program is preparing researchers and scientists to be able to engage directly with

educators and policymakers to ensure infusion of the science of learning in education practice and policy.

- **Organizing working groups to address specific science of learning needs.** An active Teacher Support Network is fully operational. Based on a network survey, the next working group will focus on key distance learning issues, including the social emotional considerations. As Network members make suggestions, such as a group to address learning based reading difficulties including dyslexia, surveys will be sent to measure interest.

- For 2021, the worlds' education systems face the dual realities of continued severe COVID outbreaks while seeing the growing promise of new vaccines that will enable eventual return to in- person education. This is an unprecedented time as the world finally moves beyond universal education triage. During the next year's critical transition period, GSoLEN constantly seeks partnerships and collaborative activities that provide research, practical information, and implementation strategies that enable each culture and region to transform their education systems to achieve equity and meaningful student learning outcomes.

How You Can Help in 2021

- Visit the constantly developing GSoLEN website https://tdlc.ucsd.edu/GSLN/overview.html to learn latest developments, submit suggestions, and communicate with the Network.
- Volunteer for a working group or suggest one.
- Suggest a topic for a videoconference.
- Enlist your colleagues to the GSoLEN mailing list.
- Alert GSoLEN to your efforts in our country.

2020 was the year for COVID-caused triage. By working together to bring the science of learning to education, we can make 2021 the year of learning transformation.