



Breakout Session
Anchoring the Education Ecosystem:
The Emerging Role of the Intermediary

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**Anchoring the
Education
Ecosystem:**
*The Emerging Role
of the Intermediary*



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Paul Leather – Director of State and Local Partnerships
Gretchen Morgan – Strategy and Policy Fellow



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Rebecca Holmes – President and CEO

New Hampshire

Learning
Initiative

Ellen Hume-Howard – Executive Director



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Tony Monfiletto – Executive Director

Toiling in the Vineyard: State-Level Educational Intermediary Organizations in the Covid Era

1. **Emergence of the Intermediary Role in State Ecosystems**
2. **Intermediaries can play powerful equity-seeking leadership roles**
3. **Fostering Connections at Multiple Levels**
4. **A Place-Based Approach to Problems**
5. **Systemic Standardization Becomes More Dubious**
6. **The Intermediary Role is Growing**

Why did we want to hear from intermediaries?

We have observed that where there are intermediaries...

- Good work persists through political shifts
- Communities of practice extend beyond district lines
- Policy is more responsive to field innovation
- Capacity-building investments go further



Session Format

- Prompts for shared discussion among the members of the panel
- Topics range from
 - organizational histories
 - key roles
 - responding to 2020
- *Please use the chat to chime in or ask questions. We will do our best to bring you in to the discussion*





Round 1

- What is your organization's origin story?
- Why were you founded?
- How has your position evolved?



Round 2

Describe your Theory of Action

- How do you interact with the field?
- How do you interact with the policy sphere and your department?
- How do you impact innovation and scale?



Round 3

- What new roles are you playing in 2020?
- What is pulling/pushing you into these roles?



Round 4

Any words of wisdom for those who may wish to launch a new state intermediary?



Intermediaries...

- Can sustain trust through political shifts that may impact the SEA
- Can uphold unapologetic equity stance
- Can amplify the impact of capacity-building investments
- Foster both original innovation & scaling of innovation through approximation
- Can be more responsive to local contexts, ***especially when funded flexibly***
- Often have greater ability to probe and sense from the field
- Often see complexity sooner and can better respond to complexity