



## Request for Presentation Proposals (RFPP)

Thank you for your interest in submitting a presentation proposal for the Aurora Institute Symposium, to be held **virtually** on October 25-28, 2021. **Please submit this proposal by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, March 26, 2021**, for your proposal to be considered. Unfortunately, we cannot accept late proposals.

You can [download the full set of proposal questions here](#).

**We recommend developing your proposal in a separate document, then copying and pasting your responses into the online form.**

### I. PRESENTATION DETAILS

1. **\*Presentation Title:** Please provide a professional title that clearly captures the main idea of your session. (Aurora Institute reserves the right to edit the title.) (200-character limit, including spaces) *[open text box]*
2. **\*Presentation Strand:** The majority of Symposium sessions fall into one or more major categories or “strands,” representing topics that are critical to driving education systems change and advancing equitable personalized, competency-based education. Each strand is a carefully curated selection of focused sessions. The strands help attendees make decisions about how to spend their time during the conference. Attendees can follow one strand for an in-depth, wide-ranging view of the topic or attend sessions across multiple strands to meet their learning objectives. Select the **one** strand that you feel best matches the topic and content of your proposal.
  - Advancing Policy & Advocacy
  - Aligning K-12, Higher Education, & Employment Pathways
  - Designing New Learning Models/Redesign
  - Elevating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Social Justice
  - Enabling Anytime, Anywhere Learning
  - Examining Research & Evaluation
  - Modernizing Professional Learning
  - Shifting to Competency-Based Education
  - Transforming Education Systems
  - Other

*\* = Required Question*

3. **\*Presentation Format and Length:** Choose one presentation format that is most appropriate for your session. (Select one.)
- Power Session (20 minutes): These are short, impactful, powerful bursts of knowledge sharing on a critical topic facing the field (similar to a TED Talk). The goal is to inspire, shift mindsets, provide key takeaways or guidance, and/or share resources for participants to learn more.
  - Panel Session (60 minutes): The purpose of this format is to bring together multiple presenters to share key knowledge and engage with participants on a particular topic. This lifts up the experiences and perspectives of various experts, including those closest to the issue (educators and/or students). The panel moderator should be included in this proposal as a presenter.
  - Pop-Up Problem of Practice (60 minutes): This format involves presenters identifying a series of problems in practice (or policy) that the field is grappling with, then breaking participants into smaller groups to discuss their experiences and insights with the issue at hand, then coming back together as a full group and sharing out recommendations. These sessions target and unpack the specific nuances of implementation, digging below the surface, and lifting up promising solutions. The goal is to advance breakthrough practices, building participant knowledge on ways to lead education innovation and address complex issues facing the field.
  - Programs to Watch (20 minutes): These sessions are geared to spotlight emerging programs. We are seeking presenters who are educators just getting started in transitioning to personalized, competency-based education systems. They will share their vision, highlight their progress, map their initial implementation steps and hurdles, and offer their contact information to practitioners who might be interested in connecting with them.
  - Ignite Session (10 minutes): This fast-paced session is designed for experts to share a quick burst of groundbreaking ideas, inspiring the audience, building understanding, and shifting thinking in new ways. The presentations should aim for no more than 20 slides, spending approximately 30 seconds on each.
4. **\*Level of Interactivity:** Each attendee, depending upon their personal learning journey and learning goals, has different needs and expectations for engaging in a virtual environment. For example, attendees who are just getting started may appreciate an information-sharing session with less interactivity, whereas other attendees may be seeking to make new connections and would benefit from highly interactive sessions. It is important for attendees to know the level of engagement they can expect when they choose to attend each session in a virtual setting. Here are three levels of interactivity and corresponding definitions:
- Interactivity Level 101: This session is designed to be mostly presentation-style for information sharing and knowledge building among participants. Presenters will share key information and guidance, along with slide decks and/or other key resources. There are minimal other interactive elements, limited mostly to chatbox discussions and Q&A.
  - Interactivity Level 201: This involves a combination of a traditional presentation and interactive elements. Interactive components may include sharing slides and other key resources, Q&A, polling, annotation exercises, and/or the use of external working documents or tools. This level of interactivity is designed to strike a balance between enabling some participant engagement while building knowledge through more traditional sharing of key information.
  - Interactivity Level 301: This involves frequent multi-directional communication among

presenters and participants throughout the session, which may include a combination of breaking into smaller discussion groups then sharing back out with the main audience, group participation in a shared document, Q&A, annotation exercises, rich dialogue via the chatbox, and other highly interactive features. Attendees can expect to participate fully and engage deeply with other participants. There are minimal “sit-and-get” components.

Please indicate the level of interactivity your session will involve. (Select one.)

- Level 101
  - Level 201
  - Level 301
5. **\*Session Abstract:** Provide a description of your proposed session. This description will be posted on the Symposium website and other event materials if your proposal is selected. (Aurora Institute reserves the right to edit the abstract.) (500-character limit including spaces) *[open text box]*

**Define Your Session Learning Outcomes:** In keeping with the competency-based, personalized learning focus of the Symposium, please list three learning outcomes that participants will be able to master and apply as a result of participating in your session. This includes the knowledge and skills that attendees will acquire to implement specific changes in their schools, districts, states, or other settings. These outcomes will be listed along with the session abstract on the Symposium website and other event materials. (Aurora Institute reserves the right to edit the learning outcomes.)

6. **\*Learning Outcome #1:** (170-character limit, including spaces)
7. **\*Learning Outcome #2:** (170-character limit, including spaces)
8. **\*Learning Outcome #3:** (170-character limit, including spaces)
9. **\*Target Audience:** (Select one.)
- Novice/Beginner
  - Intermediate
  - Expert/Mastery
  - General/All
10. **\*Target Attendee Type:** (Select up to three.)
- K-12 Teachers
  - School Principals or Administrators
  - District Leaders or Administrators
  - Technical Assistance/Professional Development Providers
  - Nonprofit Leaders
  - Policymakers or Lawmakers
  - Higher Education Leaders
  - Researchers
  - Funders
  - Other
11. **\*Grade-Level Focus:** (Select all that apply.)
- PreK-5
  - 6-8

\* = Required Question

- 9-12
- Higher Education

12. **\*Community Focus:** (Select all that apply.)

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- Not applicable

13. **\*Describe Equity Focus:** Aurora Institute strives to disrupt the structural inequities driving the education systems we've inherited. Our moral purpose is to transform education such that each child has what they need to develop their full academic, social, and personal capacity. How will your session contribute to advancing educational equity? (500-character limit, including spaces) *[open text box]*

14. **\*How will you add energy, inspiration, and fun into this session?** (500-character limit, including spaces) *[open text box]*

**II. STUDENT VOICE:** Aurora is interested in elevating student voices throughout the conference through a variety of means, including as presenters, showing videos of student testimonials and experiences in student-centered learning environments, as well as student performances (music, dance, art, spoken word, poetry, etc.).

15. **\*Will your session include students as presenters?**

- Yes
- No

16. Do you have a link to a video, that you have permission to share, featuring students (e.g. a student performance, student testimonials, or experiences in a student-centered learning environment) that Aurora could stream during the Symposium? If yes, please provide the link. (By sharing this link, you are giving express permission to Aurora Institute to stream the video and use it for promotional/educational purposes in perpetuity. This also affirms that appropriate permissions were received to record and broadcast the minors who appear in the production. Aurora cannot guarantee this video will be shown during the conference.) (500-character limit, including spaces) *[open text box]*

17. Would you be interested in working with students to create a video for the Symposium? If so, please share the name and email for the primary contact and a three-sentence description of the video you have in mind. (500-character limit, including spaces) *[open text box]*

**III. ALIGNMENT TO AURORA INSTITUTE'S MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES**

**Mission:** The mission of the Aurora Institute is to drive the transformation of education systems and accelerate the advancement of breakthrough policies and practices to ensure high-quality learning for all.

\* = Required Question

**Vision:** We envision a world where all people are empowered to attain the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary to achieve success, contribute to their communities and advance society.

**Values:**

**Student-Centered:** We do everything to focus on what is best for all students. We believe that learning environments should begin and end with the learners in mind, empowering them to participate in shaping their learning experience.

**Equity-Driven:** Our moral purpose is to transform education such that each child has what they need to develop their full academic, social and personal capacity. We strive to disrupt the structural inequities driving the systems we've inherited. Access to high-quality, appropriately designed learning models and technologies can and should drive equitable opportunities and outcomes.

**Future-Focused:** We are a forward-leaning, dynamic organization committed to pushing and leading the field beyond incremental improvement toward transformation, inspired by domestic and global innovations and advancements in learning sciences and technologies.

**Credible:** We are non-partisan. We serve with objectivity and integrity. We activate change by being proximate and responsive to the field.

**Knowledge-Driven:** We are a learning organization that is grounded in research in learning sciences and technologies. We contribute to and amplify the knowledge base to inform and influence both policy and practice.

**Collaborative:** We are part of a larger community. We work together with stakeholders and allies to transform conditions and advance the field.

18. \*Select up to two of the above core values and explain how they will be reflected in your presentation should your proposal be accepted. (500-character limit, including spaces)  
[open text box]

#### IV. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

19. \*Do you grant Aurora Institute permission to record, archive, broadcast, and openly share your presentation and slides? (It is your responsibility to ensure you receive permission from all speakers, including any students, to have the session recorded, archived, and/or broadcasted.)
- Yes
  - No
20. \*How long have you been working in the field of personalized, competency-based education? (Select one.)
- New to the field
  - 1-3 years
  - 4-9 years
  - 10 or more years
21. Would you like to receive periodic updates on education transformation from the Aurora Institute? If yes, enter your email address to opt in: [open text box]

\* = Required Question

22. Due to the virtual nature of the Symposium 2021, Aurora Institute is only able to accept a very limited number of proposals. In the event your proposal is not selected for the main conference, would you be willing to cover this topic in an alternative format, and if so, which ones? (Selecting any of the following boxes does not impact proposal acceptance nor guarantee partnership on a webinar, podcast, and/or blog post.) *(Select all that apply.)*

- Webinar
- Podcast
- Blog Post

23. Are you interested in learning more about Aurora Institute membership?

- Yes
- No

## V. PRESENTER INFORMATION

**The lead presenters will be the main point of contact for this proposal and is responsible for all communication with their co-presenters.** Presenters' names, titles, and organizations will be used on the Aurora Institute Symposium website and program book. If students are participating in your presentation, please list their information in the presenter fields. **Presentations are limited to six presenters.**

### **Lead Presenter**

**\*First Name:**

**\*Last Name:**

**\*Organization:**

**\*Title:**

**\*Email:**

**\*Phone:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Country:**

**Zip Code:**

**Twitter Handle:**

**Link to Bio:**

**\*High-Quality Head Shot:** [upload file] [acceptable file formats: PDF, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF]

**Gender: How would you describe your gender?**

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Ethnicity: Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

*\* = Required Question*

**Race: How would you describe yourself?** (Select all that apply.)

- American Indian, Native American, or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**\*Do you have additional co-presenters to include?**

- Yes
- No

**[If yes, continue on to Presenter #2. If no, skip to 'Submit' button.]**

*(If applicable)*

**Presenter #2:**

**\*First Name:**

**\*Last Name:**

**\*Organization:**

**\*Title:**

**\*Email:**

**\*Phone:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Country:**

**Zip Code:**

**Twitter Handle:**

**Link to Bio:**

**\*High-Quality Head Shot:** [upload file] [acceptable file formats: PDF, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF]

**Gender: How would you describe your gender?**

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Ethnicity: Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

**Race: How would you describe yourself? (Select all that apply.)**

- American Indian, Native American, or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Do you have additional co-presenters to include?**

- Yes
- No

**[Survey Logic: If yes, continue on to Presenter #3. If no, skip to 'Submit' button.]**

*\* = Required Question*



*(If applicable)*

**Presenter #3:**

\*First Name:

\*Last Name:

\*Organization:

\*Title:

\*Email:

\*Phone:

City:

State:

Country:

Zip Code:

Twitter Handle:

Link to Bio:

\*High-Quality Head Shot: [upload file] [acceptable file formats: PDF, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF]

**Gender: How would you describe your gender?**

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Ethnicity: Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

**Race: How would you describe yourself? (Select all that apply.)**

- American Indian, Native American, or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Do you have additional co-presenters to include?**

- Yes
- No

**[Survey Logic: If yes, continue on to Presenter #4. If no, skip to 'Submit' button.]**

\* = Required Question

(If applicable)

**Presenter #4:**

\*First Name:

\*Last Name:

\*Organization:

\*Title:

\*Email:

\*Phone:

City:

State:

Country:

Zip Code:

Twitter Handle:

Link to Bio:

\*High-Quality Head Shot: [upload file] [acceptable file formats: PDF, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF]

**Gender: How would you describe your gender?**

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Ethnicity: Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

**Race: How would you describe yourself? (Select all that apply.)**

- American Indian, Native American, or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Do you have additional co-presenters to include?**

- Yes
- No

**[Survey Logic: If yes, continue on to Presenter #5. If no, skip to 'Submit' button.]**

\* = Required Question

*(If applicable)*

**Presenter #5:**

**\*First Name:**

**\*Last Name:**

**\*Organization:**

**\*Title:**

**\*Email:**

**\*Phone:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Country:**

**Zip Code:**

**Twitter Handle:**

**Link to Bio:**

**\*High-Quality Head Shot:** [upload file] [acceptable file formats: PDF, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF]

**Gender: How would you describe your gender?**

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Ethnicity: Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

**Race: How would you describe yourself? (Select all that apply.)**

- American Indian, Native American, or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Do you have additional co-presenters to include?**

- Yes
- No

**[Survey Logic: If yes, continue on to Presenter #6. If no, skip to 'Submit' button.]**

*\* = Required Question*

*(If applicable)*

**Presenter #6:**

**\*First Name:**

**\*Last Name:**

**\*Organization:**

**\*Title:**

**\*Email:**

**\*Phone:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Country:**

**Zip Code:**

**Twitter Handle:**

**Link to Bio:**

**\*High-Quality Head Shot:** [upload file] [acceptable file formats: PDF, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF]

**Gender: How would you describe your gender?**

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**Ethnicity: Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

**Race: How would you describe yourself? (Select all that apply.)**

- American Indian, Native American, or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other
- Prefer to self-describe as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**BUTTON: SUBMIT**

*\* = Required Question*