



**SYMPOSIUM BREAKOUT SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022 | 2:00-3:30 PM ET**

# **Using Problem-Based Learning to Center Equity When Developing Educators**

## **PRESENTERS:**

- Greg Ponikvar, Summit Public Schools
- David Tellez, Summit Public Schools





AT SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Welcome!

**Using Problem-Based Learning to Center Equity When  
Developing Educators**

# Session Overview

## Learning Outcomes

### *You will...*

1. Understand the theoretical and practical underpinnings of Problem-Based Learning, in contrast with more traditional forms of professional development.
2. Experience what it feels like to engage in problem-based learning with peers.
3. Leave equipped with tools to start using Problem-Based Learning in their own educational context.

## Agenda

Time	Activity
0-5	Grounding / Warm-Up
5-15	History, Background, and Context: <i>Why PBL for Equity?</i>
15-75	Experience a PBL <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small Groups</li><li>• Simulation</li><li>• Feedback</li><li>• Reflection</li></ul>
75-85	Questions or Application Time
85-90	Share, Reflect, and Feedback

# Introductions



AT SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Marshall Leadership Institute

- Work with organizations to identify, develop, and support powerful school leaders.

### **Greg Ponikvar**

- Executive Director of the Marshall Leadership Institute.

### **David Tellez**

- Dean of Culture & Instruction at Summit Prep High School

# Problem-Based Learning

- **Constructivist approach** to learning.
- Learning is **organized around a problem**.
- Participants **assume major responsibility** for their own learning.
- Most of the learning occurs within the **context of small groups**.
- **Simulation**, feedback, and alignment.

# Grounding in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- This work takes place at **many levels.**
- **PBL's** focus on how we do this work within our current **locus of control.**

## COMPONENT

Organizational Structures  
(Systemic/Societal)

Educational Model  
(Institutional)

Faculty Experience  
(Interpersonal & Individual)

Network & School Site  
Collaboration  
(Interpersonal &  
Individual)

SYSTEMIC

INSTITUTIONAL

INTERPERSONAL

INDIVIDUAL



# How does DEI show up in PBL's?

In addition to the core problem participants will grapple with, there is an **equity challenge** in every single PBL.

It's not always explicit.



*And, that's the point.*



Today, we'll learn by  
experiencing a *very brief*  
PBL.

# Here is your PBL

You are an Assistant Principal at Evergreen High School. You get this email from Scarlet, 9th grade English teacher who has four years of teaching experience but is new to your school this year.

Hey, there are a bunch of kids in my class who don't want to learn, are disrespectful, and don't really know how to listen to instructions. Today, Alan even stood up in class and called me a bad teacher. This is unacceptable. Will you talk to them all and call their parents? [Here is the list](#) - it's about 10 of them. Thanks,  
Scarlet

You will see Scarlet in 20 minutes. At that time, one member from your group should be ready to have this conversation with Scarlet.

# PBL Small Groups

## Process Specifications

- You'll be in a small group in a breakout room with new friends. Get to know each other quickly.
- No *matter what your actual role is*, you are acting as the leadership team at Evergreen High School.
- As you prepare to talk to Scarlet, your group may want to consider the following questions:
  - What were your immediate reactions?
  - What problem(s) do you see?
  - How are you compelled to respond?
  - To what extent do people in your group see the challenge the same way?
  - What would you hope to achieve out of a 10 minute conversation with Scarlet?
  - What's the plan?
  - What are the potential costs and benefits of your plan?
- Pick one person in your group to be ready to simulate!

## Performance Task

- In 30 minutes, make sure *at least* one person in your group is ready to talk to Scarlet.

# Simulation Feedback

<b>Glow</b>	I loved when you... It seemed like a good move when you...
<b>Grows</b>	Have you tried/considered? I wonder if...? How might you...? Would you be willing to try...? You may have missed an opportunity when... What's worked for me before is.. It seems like you were trying to...
<b>Questions</b>	I wonder why they chose to approach the conversation this way? I wonder about the costs and benefits of the approach taken? What kind of follow-up might needed? What do we think would have happened if...?

# Reflections

- What was that experience like for you?
- What did you learn?
- How did you learn?
- How did it compare to other types of professional development?

# Making Your Own

**Plan**

**Skills, Problem, Performance Task, Content**

**Facilitate**

**Diverse Groups, Structure (or, lack thereof), Observe**

**Apply**

**Simulate, Feedback, Align, Reflect**



**Questions?**

# Resources

## PBL Background Knowledge

**The Power of Problem-Based Learning for Developing School Leaders**

**Problem Based Learning for Administrators**

## PBL How To's

**Sample of a Problem-Based Learning Experience for an Administrator**

## Reach Out

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**Thank You!**

*Please give us honest feedback so we can improve.*



# AURORA INSTITUTE

## *Symposium*

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OCTOBER 24 – 26, 2022 | VIRTUAL

Thank you for joining us!

***Share Your Thoughts***

Participate in our one-minute poll (link in chat box)

