



**SYMPOSIUM BREAKOUT SESSION**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022 | 1:15-2:15 PM ET**

# **Partnering on the Path: Spring Lake Park Public Schools (MN) and LiFT Learning, a Journey to a Competency-Based Education System**

## **PRESENTERS:**

- Melissa Olson, Spring Lake Park Schools, Minnesota (School District 16)
- Joey Lee, Chief Learning Officer, LiFT Learning



# Outcomes & Agenda



- Identify relatable challenges and effective strategies that could be implemented within their learning community
- Examine current contexts and structures within systems of education to develop an empathic and equitable entry point of innovation.
- Use the collective efficacy of the session to identify microshifts to take back to their organization and move toward a more equitable education system

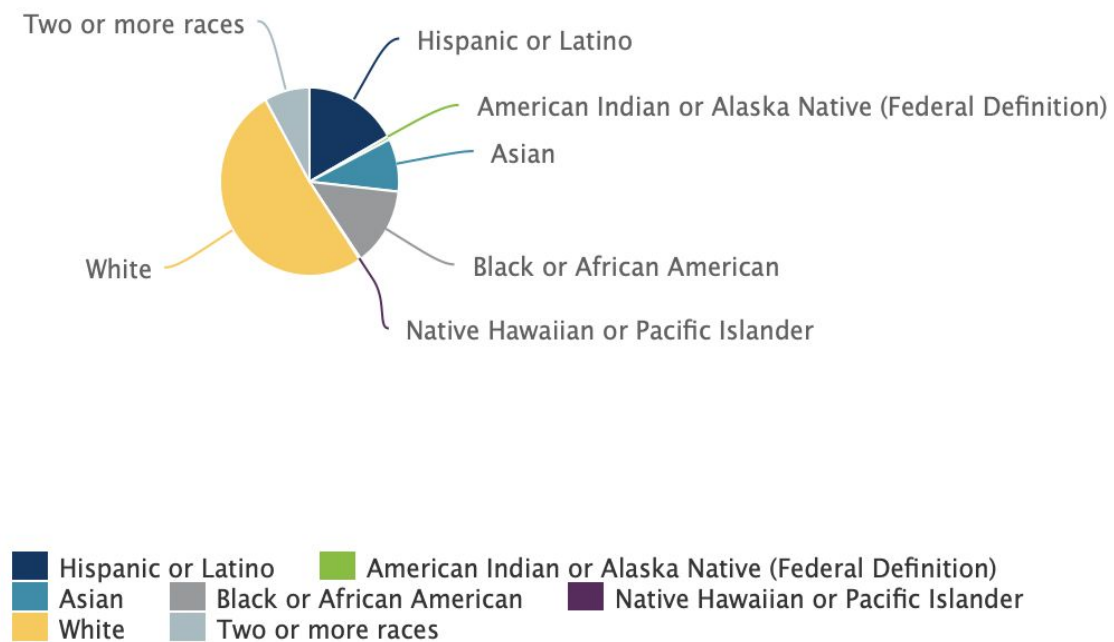
## Agenda

- Context Building
  - Who we are
  - How we got here
  - Teacher and student voice
- Small Group Dialogue
  - Sharing your experiences
- LiFT Learning
  - Why the system matters in CBE
- Entry Points into CBE
- Closing

# Spring Lake Park Schools, MN



- Suburb of Minneapolis, MN
- 6,187 students
- 6 schools plus two program schools





## Career & College Pathways

 **12x12**

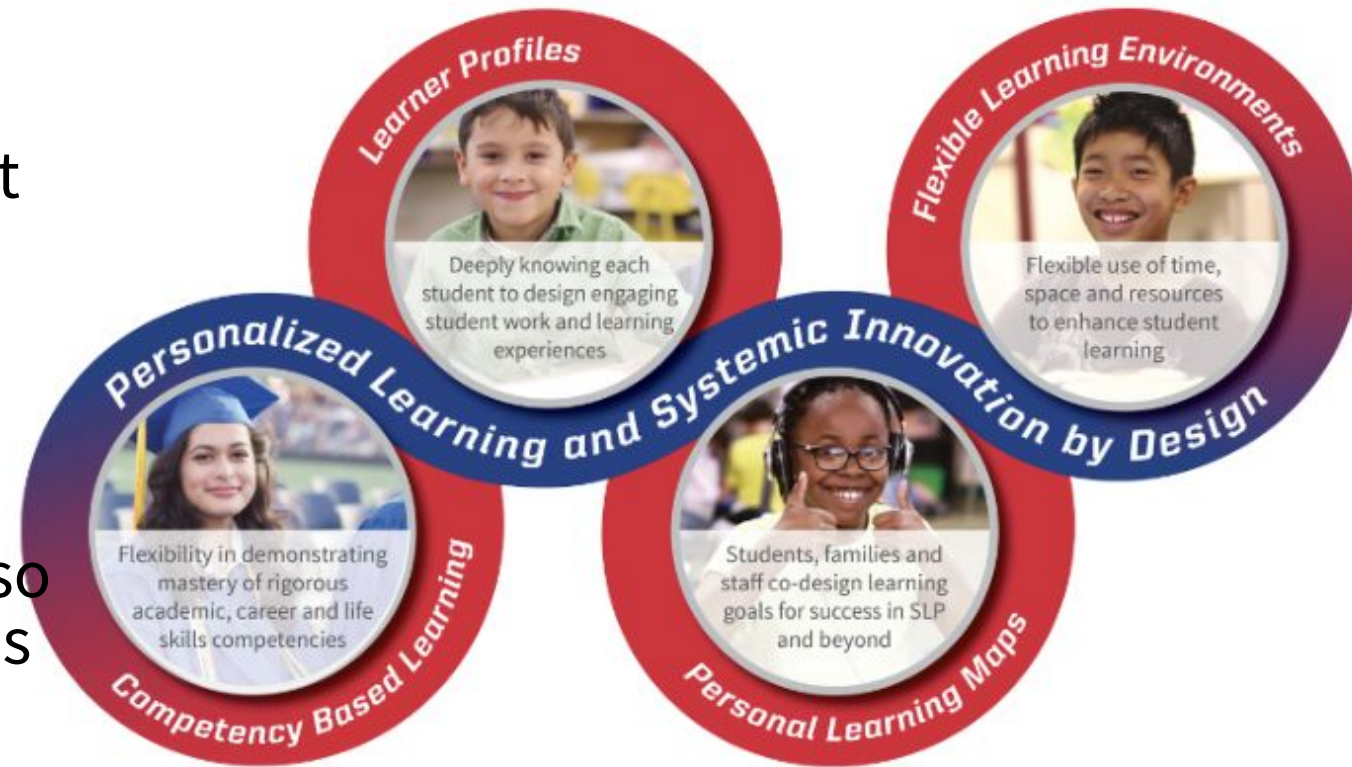
goal that each student can earn 12 college credits by the end of 12th grade

	Count	Percent
English learner	773	12.5%
Special education	841	13.6%
Free/Reduced-Price meals	2,241	36.2%
Homeless	31	0.5%

# Why Competency-Based Learning, for SLPS

It really comes down to our vision:

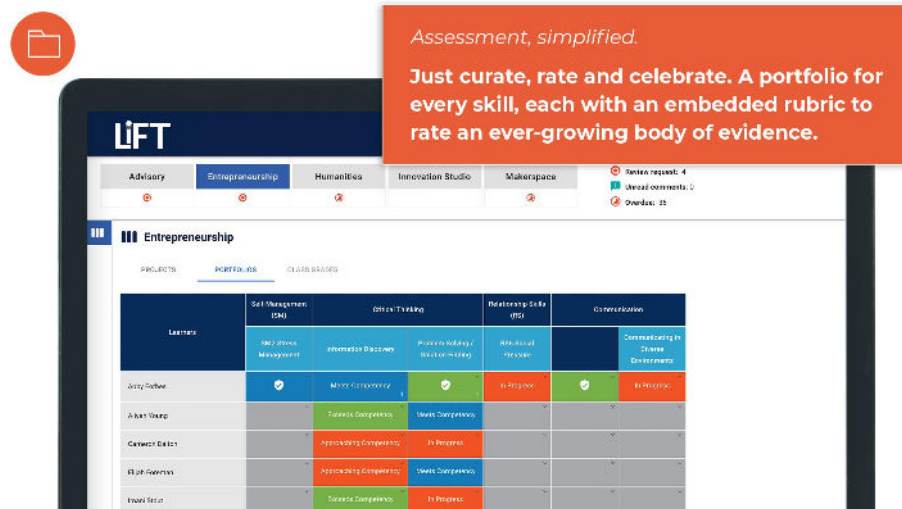
- Fostering personalized experiences so that each student feels valued, inspired, and has a sense of belonging
- Resulting in college readiness, and the development of academic, life, and career skills so that each student has aspirations for success





# Who We Are

Mission driven Organization  
Evolving platform for PBL and CBE  
Supporting wrap-around services (PD / consultation)



*Assessment, simplified.*  
Just curate, rate and celebrate. A portfolio for every skill, each with an embedded rubric to rate an ever-growing body of evidence.

**LIFT**

Advisory | **Entrepreneurship** | Humanities | Innovation Studio | Makerspace

Text requests: 4  
Literal comments: 0  
Overdue: 15

**Entrepreneurship**

PROJECTS | **PORTFOLIO** | CLASS GRADUES

Learners	Sell Management (SM)	Oral Thinking	Relationship Skills (RS)	Communication
	SM2: Drive Management	Information Discovery	Process Inquiry & Decision Making	Relationships & Persuade
Jacey Deibel	In Progress	Approaching Competency	In Progress	In Progress
Ashley Young		Approaching Competency	In Progress	
Colleen Galt		Approaching Competency	In Progress	
Ellie Gierman		Approaching Competency	In Progress	
Erin Stettin		Approaching Competency	In Progress	



We believe that PBL and CBE can bring about tremendous positive change in the world.

**LIFT**  
LEARNING™

# SLP: How it started . . . with lead learners



# Small scale innovations: “Let’s Try It” levels

## **CBL Cohort Teacher:** 11th grade English Language Arts

- Two teachers built out a full-year competency-based
- District and teacher family communication
- Monitored implementation and made refinements
- Scaled to all of our 11th grade ELA courses in the past year

## **Co-created Courses:** Offered at all grade levels in the high school

- Opportunity for students and teachers to partner and build a course tailored to student interests that meets competency criteria
- Identified a few innovative staff willing to try it
- This year: 30 students, primarily in four core areas as well as physical education

# Spring Lake Park Schools



Spring Lake Park, Minnesota



# Why LiFT Learning?



- Need a system that can support a student on a more traditional path, including our concurrent enrollment or college-level courses
- **Also** need a system that would support our students who choose co-created courses or entire paths
- Ultimately, because of how much voice and choice we offer, we need a system **that follows the learner**, *not the course*, through their K-12 experience

# Where would you place yourself?



1



2



3

- What is your story, where are you?
- Lessons learned & best practices

LiFT offers an all-in-one space for **dynamic, project-based learning** where students can become the architects of their own education.



10

Classes



16

Revisions Requested



03

Evidence Overdue



05

Unread Comments



### Upcoming Due Dates

APR  
25

Wisdom - I grow through focus and effort.

Humanities/Ecology Action Policy Brief

OVERDUE

View Details

JUN  
10

Position Paper - Ethical Considerations

Entrepreneurship/Building a Business

View Details

JUN  
15

Unit 4 End-Unit Assessment

Advisory/Building a Business

View Details

JUN  
20

Wisdom - I grow through focus and effort.

Innovation Studio/Think Like a (Local) Historian

View Details

### Recent Projects

Ecology Action Policy Brief

Humanities

3 revisions

1 reviews

1 overdue

Building a Business

Entrepreneurship

3 revisions

1 reviews

1 overdue

Think Like a (Local) Historian

Advisory

3 revisions

1 reviews

1 overdue

Ecology Action Policy Brief

Humanities

3 revisions

1 reviews

1 overdue

Building a Business

Entrepreneurship

3 revisions

1 reviews

1 overdue

## My Classes




Learners can **design their own projects**, or **add their individual voices** to any teacher-created assignments.

### PROJECT DETAILS

We have already learned a lot: how we measure 'greenness,' how global cities and rural areas are seeking to address problems with the environment, and how to construct a policy brief. ... [Read more](#)



### Teacher added steps

+ Add New Step

#### Select an Issue

I can select an environmental issue and set long and short term goals and make a plan to successfully complete my policy brief. [Read more](#)

[Growth and Representation \(USC Policy and Practice Brief\)](#) | [Prevent. Donate. Compost. \(USC Policy and Practice Brief\)](#) | [Policy Briefs - UNC Writing Center](#)  
| [Learn Independently Checklist](#) | [Using Sources Checklist](#)

#### Grid: Issue, Impact, Indicator, and Interaction

Under Review

Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Historical Inquiry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

#### SMART Goal for Policy Brief

Completed

IL.1.1 - Setting goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
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#### Make a Plan

In progress

IL.1.2 - Setting goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Feb 03, 2022

[Resource link goes here](#)

2 Comments [Artifact Update](#)

Feb 03, 2022

[Resource link goes here](#)

2 Comments [Artifact Update](#)

Feb 03, 2022

[Resource link goes here](#)

2 Comments [Artifact Update](#)





## My Classes




View  
Project - Evidences

Clear

### PROJECT DETAILS



### Teacher added steps

+ Add New Step

We have already learned a lot: how we measure 'greenness,' how urban and rural areas are seeking to address problems with the environment, and how to construct a policy brief. ... [Read more](#)

Work is rated for **each skill** it demonstrates, until it is ready for the **portfolio**.



Essential **skills** are explicitly connected to each assignment to keep the focus on **feedback and growth**, not just task completion.

#### Grid: Issue, Impact, Indicator, and Interaction

Under Review

Writing

Historical Inquiry

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐
☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

#### SMART Goal for Policy Brief

Completed

IL.1.1 - Setting goals

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

#### Make a Plan

In progress

IL.1.2 - Setting goals

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

term goals and make a plan to successfully complete my policy brief. [Read more](#)

[Prevent. Donate. Compost. \(USC Policy and Practice Brief\)](#) | [Policy Briefs - UNC Writing Center](#)

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2 Comments [Artifact Update](#)



Humanities

Learners	ELA 4 Writing Historical Texts		IL1 Independent Learning		Communication		Habits of Success	
<div>Search Learner</div>	4.1 Introduce the Topic	4.2 Develop the Main Idea	1.1 Setting Goals	1.2 Making a Plan	Writing	Civil Discourse	Academic Behaviors	Social Resp
Danny Barrett	C&C Ready	2 Advanced 2						
Tasha Fitzgerald	Just Starting Out	Just Starting Out	2 Level 4					
Irene Floyd	2 Above and Beyond							

Just Starting Out

Update

Suggested Grade : Developing (80)

Use

☐ Approve

Select an Issue

Developing(80)

x 2

Research

Emerging(80)

x 2

Draft Policy Brief

Advanced 2(80)

x 1

Share

Level 4(80)

x 1

Add Evidence

Close

**Not your average gradebook**  
Evidence of learning is curated in **skill-based portfolios**, for holistic evaluation of demonstrated abilities

EVIDENCE

Just Starting Out

Select an Issue

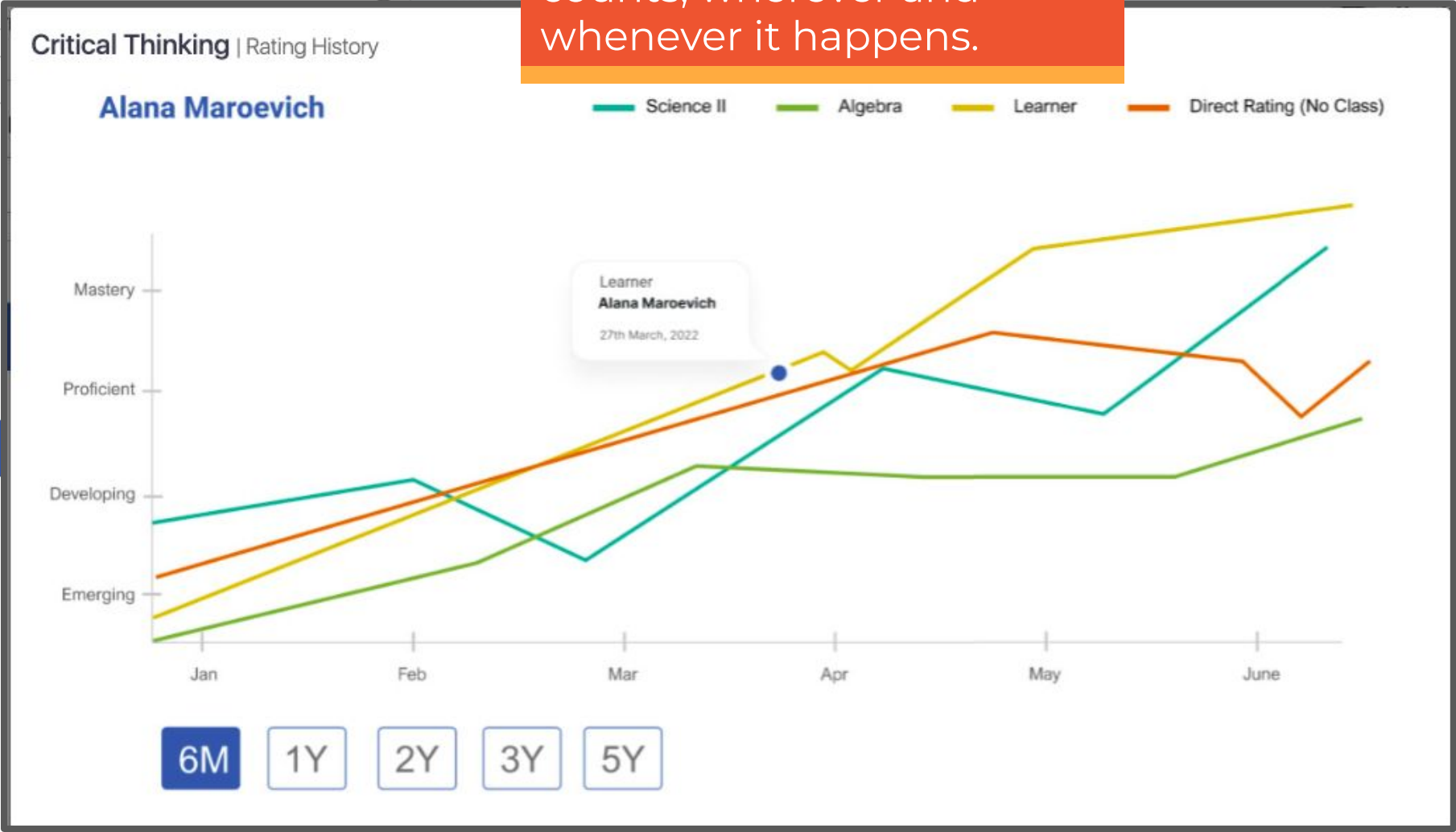
Research

Draft Policy Brief

Share

Reflect

LiFT helps transcend silos to make sure all learning counts, wherever and whenever it happens.



History  
View

History  
View

History  
View

History  
View

History  
View

### 3 Entry Points into Competency-Based Education

- Ensure strong systemic **backward design** so teachers can ultimately facilitate student backward design of learning
- Elevate **Depth of Knowledge** and design of **performance assessments** in student work and learning experiences
- Utilize **Career & Life competencies** as feedback and self-assessment tools

*We continue to focus on these as levers that move us forward in this work.*

- Self-Direction
- Collaboration
- Digital Literacy
- Civic & Cultural Awareness
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Creativity & Innovation

**SKILLS & MINDSETS**  
CAREER AND LIFE COMPETENCIES

**RIGOROUS CONTENT**  
ACADEMIC COMPETENCIES

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math
- Arts
- Physical Education & Health
- Electives



# One Microshift





# Connect with us



**Dr. Melissa Olson**

Spring Lake Park Public Schools (MN)  
*Director of Curriculum & Instructional Practice*  
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**Joey Lee**

LiFT Learning  
*Chief Learning Officer*  
joey@liftlearning.com



**November 1 at 2pm ET**

## **Partnering on the Path**

This Q & A session will continue conversations on microshifts to consider on your path to a personalized competency-based learning environment.



# 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)

