



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

Reimagining School in Rural America: The Transcend Rural Schools Design Community

PRESENTERS:

- Taina Torres, Transcend Education
- Jenny O'Meara, Transcend Education
- Cederick Ellis, McComb School District
- Jeremiah Johnson, McComb High School
- Lillian Edwards, Spring Creek School, Todd County School District
- Andrew Wolff, Clear Creek School District





TRANSCEND RURAL SCHOOLS DESIGN COMMUNITY



OUR MISSION

Transcend supports communities to create and spread extraordinary, equitable learning environments.



Dr. Cederick Ellis (he/him/his)
Superintendent, McComb School
District
Lives in McComb, MS on Natchez and
Choctaw land



Lillian Edwards (she/her/hers)
Teacher, Spring Creek School
Lives in St Francis, SD on Sicangu
Lakota land



Jeremiah (he/him/his)
Student, McComb School District
Lives in McComb, MS on Natchez and
Choctaw land



Andrew Wolff (he/him/his)
Student Futures Navigator, Clear
Creek School District
Lives in Idaho Springs, CO on
Cheyenne & Ute land



Jenny (she/her/hers)
Partner, Transcend Education
Lives in Warrenton, NC on Lumbee &
Occaneechi land.



Taina (she/her/hers)
Partner, Transcend Education
Lives in Jersey City on Munsee Lenape
land.

OUR GOALS FOR TODAY

WILL DO

- Explore the challenges rural communities face and the ways school leaders leverage their unique assets to address these challenges through school design
- Deepen your understanding of The Leaps for Equitable, 21st Century Learning
- Learn from and brainstorm with rural school designers to reimagine your school model

MIGHT DO

- Generate specific ideas to learn how young people are experiencing your school model
- Identify shifts you might make in your model
- Build connections with other rural communities

WON'T DO

- Treat rural communities as homogeneous
- Learn a formula or step-by-step “how-to” for reimagining education in rural communities
- Identify a silver bullet to address the challenges rural communities are facing



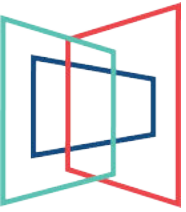
COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

If you are willing to commit to these agreements, drop an emoji or a "YES!" in the chat!

- ❑ Recognize that your perspective is *"true, but partial"*
- ❑ Say the thing
- ❑ *"Yes and..."*
- ❑ Call in, not call out
- ❑ Stay engaged

If at any time the space no longer feels safe for you, please notify a facilitator.

ENGAGEMENT



Zoom Tech

- Rename yourself so that your preferred name, organization, and preferred pronouns are displayed, if you haven't done so already (ex: *Jenny | Transcend (she/her)*)
- If at any point you need support with Zoom, chat **Jenny or our Aurora representative**
- We encourage video participation***, but understand if you aren't able to

Participation & Engagement

- We will use breakout rooms for small group discussions
- We will use Zoom chat to share ideas and resources
- We will invite folks to ***go on and off mute*** so that we bring multiple voices into the conversation
- If helpful to you, Closed Captioning is available. You can access it by clicking the button at the bottom of your screen that reads "Live Transcript"





10 LEAPS FOR EQUITABLE, 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

From our research and work in school communities, we've identified 10 ways we must change learner experiences, which we call "Leaps".

The Leaps reveal how we might move from inequitable, industrial-era learning to learning that is equitable and responsive to the demands and opportunities of the 21st century.

OUR VISION OF REINVENTION

...in order to pivot from the probable path to possible path, we need to make these essential **Leaps** in schools:

The Leaps reveal how you might move from inequitable, industrial-era learning to learning that is equitable and responsive to the demands and opportunities of the 21st century.

INEQUITABLE, INDUSTRIAL-ERA LEARNING

- Unequal Expectations & Opportunities
- Narrow Focus
- Rote Activities
- Irrelevance
- Assimilation & Marginalization
- Reinforcement of the Status Quo
- Isolation
- Inflexible Systems
- Passive Compliance
- Siloed Schooling

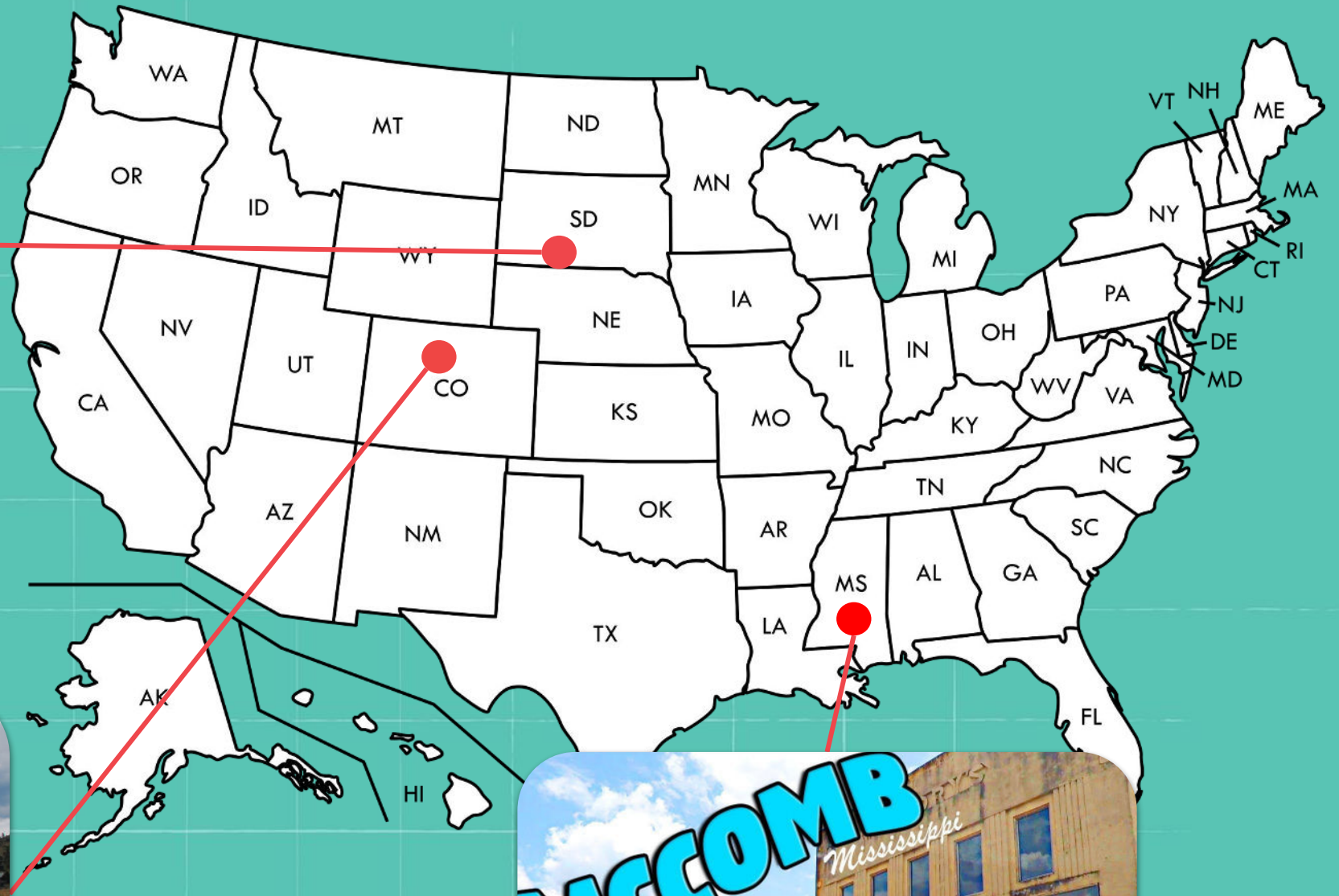
EQUITABLE, 21ST- CENTURY LEARNING

- High Expectations with Unlimited Opportunities
- Whole-Child Focus
- Rigorous Learning
- Relevance
- Affirmation of Self & Others
- Social Consciousness & Action
- Connection & Community
- Customization
- Active Self-Direction
- Anytime, Anywhere Learning

**WHICH LEAP DO YOU
THINK YOUR SCHOOL
COMMUNITY MOST
NEEDS TO FOCUS ON?**



Spring Creek, SD



LET'S DIG IN

1

Reflect (3 min)

Given your unique challenges & assets, what ideas do you have about how you might start to make the shift towards the Leaps for Equitable 21st Century learning in your community?

2

Share (6)

Take turns sharing your reflections out loud.

Look for moments of resonance or celebration.



GIVEN YOUR UNIQUE CHALLENGES & ASSETS, WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT HOW YOU MIGHT START TO MAKE THE SHIFT FROM THE LEFT SIDE OF THE LEAPS TO THE RIGHT SIDE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Rural Schools

DESIGN COMMUNITY

COHORT 2:

Join and connect with rural communities around the country who are reimagining school!

Attend an interactive virtual session to learn more about the cohort and community-based school redesign

Nov 3 &
Nov 9

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT RURAL COMMUNITY- BASED REDESIGN?

- *Register to for an interactive informational session*
- *Sign up to connect with a Transcend Rural Partner 1:1*
- *Apply today!*

ENDING WELL

SWAG BAG

- ❑ Leaps for 21st Century, Equitable Learning
- ❑ Rural Schools Design Community Cohort 2 Overview
- ❑ RSDC2.0 Application
- ❑ Rural Schools Cohort 1 Video

TRY SOMETHING!

- ❑ Try something in your community to bring the Leaps to life!



#RURALSTRONG



AURORA INSTITUTE

Symposium

OCTOBER 24 – 26, 2022 | VIRTUAL

Thank you for joining us!

Share Your Thoughts

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



**IN ONE WORD,
HOW ARE YOU
LEAVING US
AFTER THIS
SESSION? DROP
IT IN THE CHAT!**

