



**LEARNER-CENTERED LEADERSHIP LAB**

*“If you are looking for an experience that will help you grow personally so that your leadership has a greater impact on your students, the LCLL can help you achieve your goals.”*

- LCLL Leader, Cohort 3

What would it take to truly activate the truly transformative power of education so *all* children achieve their unique potential and shape their own destinies? At [Transcend](#), a national non-profit which has supported school reinvention in over 30 states, we think that **systems leadership** is a huge part of the answer.

Reimagining and redesigning how to educate young people so that all children can thrive in and transform the world is a special kind of challenge that calls for a special kind of leadership, one that we call *learner-centered leadership (LCL)*. Learner-centered leadership is an approach to educational leadership that places learners (of all ages) at the center of systems.

Learner-centered leaders work to create extraordinary, equitable learning environments by shifting their systems from one-size-fits-all experiences that often leave young people disconnected, bored, or locked in place, to learning that is relevant, rigorous, affirming and truly provides an equal opportunity to every student and is responsive to the demands and opportunities of the 21st century.

[The Learner-Centered Leadership Lab \(LCLL\)](#) is a nine-month experience for superintendents. The lab is a diverse, close-knit community alongside an ever-growing network of like-minded peers on similar journeys to lead transformational change. LCLL gives leaders protected time and space to explore real-life problems that test who they are as a learner-centered leader and test how their system is moving in its transformation towards learner-centeredness.

Observations and learnings from the LCLL program have revealed six shifts in Leadership Concepts from the industrial era to leadership that advances equitable, 21st-century learning:

LEADERSHIP CONCEPTS	
Industrial Era	Learner-Centered Era
Represent learner’s interests with very little learner input	Listen to learners (of all ages)
Make decisions to serve the system	Make decisions to serve all learners
Be the Chief Director	Be the Chief Learner
Further a culture of performance and compliance	Cultivate a culture of learning and growth
Control a systems of roles, rules, and hierarchies	Empower and inspire others to become learner-centered leaders
Manage discrete, fragmented systems	Engage with leaders in the ecosystem to create and support integrated experiences for learner

*"It is rare that leaders, at the highest levels of leadership, are afforded the opportunity to continue to build capacity, expand their personal and systems' network and to explore the concept of learner-centered leadership in such a dynamic and focused manner. It is the ultimate investment that those looking to advance equity and excellence in education, should consider.*

*-LCLL Leader,  
Cohort 1*

During the lab experience leaders develop the skills and mindsets to:

- Explore their own values, identity and deepest motivations in order to lead in more authentic and learner-centered ways
- Guide their own leadership actions, especially when faced with dilemmas or in the 'heat of the fire'
- Develop others around them to be stronger learner-centered leaders
- Cultivate the conditions for learner-centered transformation across their systems

Each iteration of the LCLL will be unique, like its participants, their needs, and their contexts.

Leaders in the LCLL are carefully selected. For the sake of the community and out of respect for one another, participants who join LCLL **make a commitment to the full set of dates for gatherings** (on right) and protect the time and space. Between gatherings, participants engage in independent reflection and work including journaling as well as periodic calls with facilitators and peers. Thanks to a federal grant, the only cost to participants will be travel expenses for in-person convening(s).

If you'd like to refer learner-centered leaders to be considered for the LCLL, please fill out [this](#) form.

#### **Key Dates for Gatherings: 2024**

February 28th-March 1st, In Person  
March 27th, 6:30-8:30pm ET Virtual  
April 10th, 6:30-8:30pm ET Virtual  
May 22nd, 6:30-8:30pm ET Virtual  
June 12th, 6:30-8:30pm ET Virtual  
August 14th, 6:30-8:30pm ET Virtual  
September 4th, 6:30-8:30pm ET Virtual  
October 16th, 6:30-8:30pm ET Virtual  
November 20-22nd, In Person

*Scan the QR codes below to hear from previous LCLL leaders and the experiences they gained from being a part of the lab!*



**Questions?** Contact us at [LCLL@transcendeducation.org](mailto:LCLL@transcendeducation.org)

*"Executive leadership is a lonely space. If you desire a place to problem-solve, learn, collaborate and create a space for self-care, then the LCLL is an experience for you."*

*- LCLL Leader, Cohort 3*