

Winter Institute 2023 – Cary, NC

THE NUMBERS:

- ▶ 144 Attendees
- ▶ 9 Professional Affinity Groups
- ▶ 16 Homerooms
- ▶ 15 Model Programs & Practice Presentations
- ▶ 3 Identity Affinity Groups
- ▶ 2 Keynote Speakers
- ▶ 11 Ex Ed in Action Workshops
- ▶ 1 Sponsor

The 18th annual Winter Institute hosted by Cary Academy in Cary, North Carolina had a focus on **Empowered Ex Ed: Sustained Partnerships & Student Leadership**. It was great to be together in real life, in community, with a fantastic host school, amazing participants, lovely students, an inspiring theme, and of course, a phenomenal keynote speaker. Our community is strong and we support each other.

100%

of attendees stated they enjoyed themselves

100%

had an overall positive networking experience

100%

said they would recommend ISEEN to others

“ISEEN’s Winter Institute continues to be one of the best professional learning opportunities for schools interested in learning, exploring, growing, and experiencing experiential education. The structure of each day of the Institute allows participants to network, form connections and participate in workshops that focus on ways EE programs continue to evolve. I walked away with ideas, resources, and strategies I can implement into my teaching practice this school year.”

“Best Institute I’ve Ever Attended: Sense of Possibility, Strong Community Imagination, Sense of Mission Connection To The Earth.”

“I loved the feeling that I was “doing the thing” instead of just learning about how to teach “the thing”! It felt so true to the ethos of what we are striving for!”

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP: Membership renewal notices will be going out in May and June for the 2023-2024 academic year. Membership runs from July 1 - June 30. Leadership Circle membership opportunities are open to all schools!

Looking Forward:

ISEEN IN THE FUTURE

CUSTOM TRAINING/CONSULTING ISEEN is increasingly facilitating custom trainings and working with member schools on designing experiential education programs. Bring ISEEN to your school community to support your school’s growth. We invite you to reach out to discuss potential opportunities for your school.

“ISEEN’s Leadership Team are amazing facilitators of professional development, and they tailored their time with our faculty to meet our specific program needs. Best of all, they model the types of engagement they are helping us to develop with our students.” Michael McElreath, Director of Experiential Education, Cary Academy, June-August 2022

“The team from ISEEN worked with us to research and investigate the possibility of an experiential education program at Shipley. Their expertise was invaluable to us in making decisions about the location, mission, vision and long-term sustainability of such a program.” Sharron Russell, MSW, PsyD, Director of Student Support. The Shipley School, April-May 2022

We also look forward to seeing you at our scheduled programs. Put them on your calendar and look for emails about registration!

SUMMER INSTITUTE 2023 – COLORADO
Experiential Education Pedagogy & Practice
June 20-24, 2023
Hosted by the Dawson School | Lafayette, CO
Register now!

WINTER INSTITUTE 2024 – CALIFORNIA
Rooted in Experiential Education: Finding Our Places to Flourish
January 23-26, 2024
Hosted by The Athenian School
Registration opens August 15, 2023.



Gratitude

We THANK YOU, our members for being a part of this journey with ISEEN. We are here because of you and we look forward to building the future together.



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Independent
Schools
Experiential
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Network

Looking Back AND Looking Forward: IMPACT REPORT

APRIL 2022 – APRIL 2023





ISEEN Independent Schools Experiential Education Network

Experiential education is the future of teaching and learning. We know that the skills, mindset, empathy, resilience, and curiosity that experiential education instills in our students will prepare them for whatever lies ahead in their lives and in the world. Over the past year, ISEEN continued to challenge our member schools to be brave and champion courageous change as we collectively lead the way in transformational education through impactful Institutes and workshops. While we updated our definition for experiential education, we see this as a return to our roots, envisioning the collective purpose of education as a solution to climate change and building a democratic society.

ISEEN Published in the Independent School Magazine: "The Evolution of Experiential Education"

by Lauren Kelley and Shoshanna Sumka

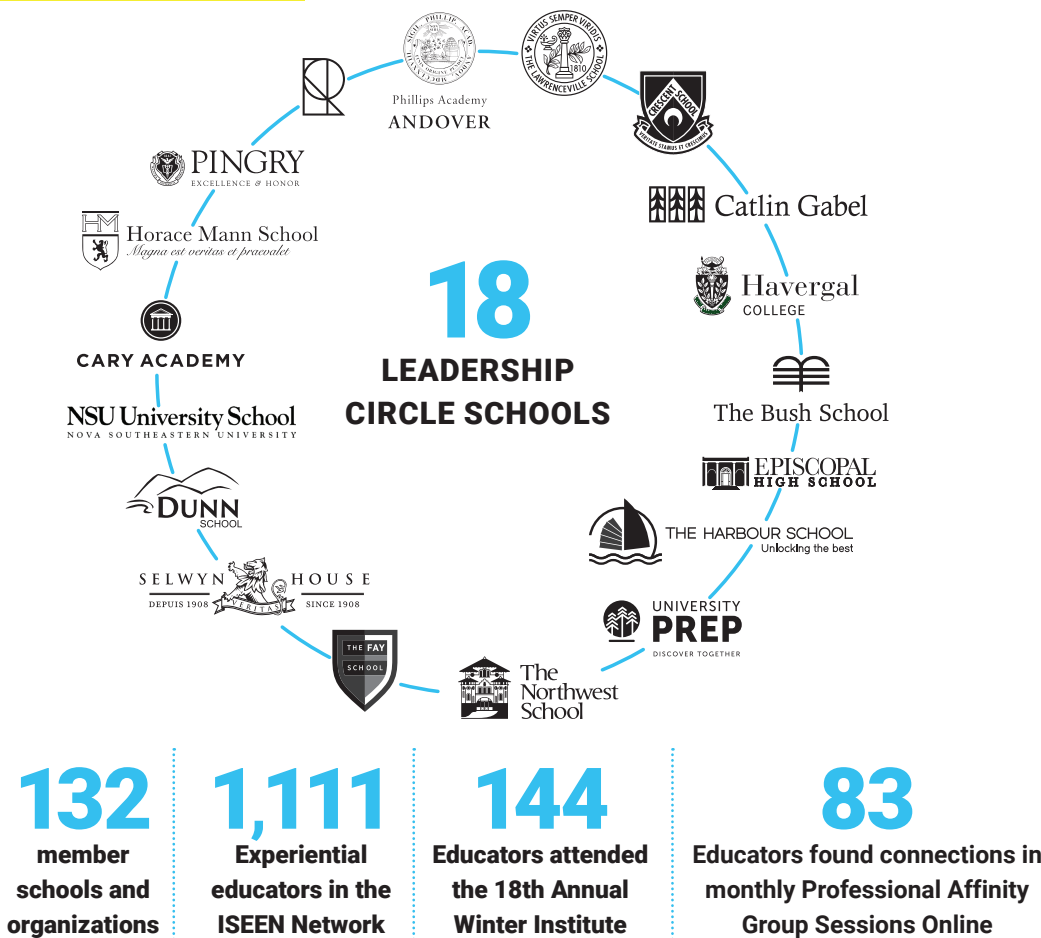
"[S]chools have always been in the practice of crafting transformation. But today they understand it's not just about the students but our world. ... Schools are in the work of evolving our world through our students. Experiential educators are always looking to achieve transference—that palpable sense that a program is "coming home" and shifting the way students understand themselves and their world. Schools are working to equip students with the tools to shift their communities toward a more beautiful, just, and sustainable future—one they can own, celebrate, and invite others to join."

ISEEN Develops NEW Definition of Experiential Education at the Intersection of DEI + Ex Ed!

"Experiential education is a pedagogical process by which educators engage the whole student through a cycle of direct experience, reflection, analysis, and experimentation. Experiential education prioritizes people, identities, and the environment, addressing justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Fostering personal connection to deep and applied learning and inspiring growth in both the student and teacher, experiential education engages participants to be active global citizens working for a more just, equitable, and sustainable world where everyone belongs." (ISEEN, 2023).



The Numbers



ISEEN Online Professional Learning



Professional Affinity Groups-PAGs, as we affectionately call them, successfully connect educators with peer support and advice in a warm, collaborative environment. This year we added two identity affinity groups: BIPOC Experiential Educators and White Anti-Racist Co-conspirators. We are always looking to better serve our diverse community, so please reach out if you have new ideas.

DEI BOOK CLUB READINGS:

- ▶ *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom* by Bettina L. Love

Summer Institute 2022 - Washington, DC

46 intrepid educators joyfully reimaged what transformational teaching and learning could be at the Summer Teachers Institute hosted by the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA. Classroom teachers spent four intense days together collaborating to make their own and each other's pedagogies more meaningful for their students organized into disciplines in Math, Science, History, World Languages, Social Studies, English and Elementary Education.

"The Summer Institute was an amazing time with colleagues to learn, grow, practice and develop our own lessons in experiential learning. We got to experience some for ourselves and fine tune others for our own students. Great strategies and protocols were shared that transcend into any discipline! I really enjoyed the African American Museum, Alexandria and Old Town and time to reflect about our experiences with colleagues!"

"That was truly an inspiring and uplifting experience. What a great way to launch into summer to think about all these things to try out next year."



"I had a really wonderful time, got inspired and rejuvenated, and met some new friends! Thank you!!"