



# DEEPER LEARNING EQUITY FELLOWSHIP

## BIG PICTURE LEARNING AND INTERNATIONALS NETWORK FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROUDLY WELCOME THE THIRD COHORT OF DEEPER LEARNING EQUITY FELLOWS

JULY 13, 2017 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | With questions please contact Carlos Moreno: carlos@equityfellows.org

Big Picture Learning and Internationals Network for Public Schools are proud to announce the third cohort of the Deeper Learning Equity Fellowship, made up of sixteen emerging leaders who will dedicate a significant portion of the next two years to addressing issues of education inequity in their local communities. This cohort joins a group of 30 Equity Fellows already steeped in this important work.

**Kelly Nicholls**  
Tacoma Public Schools

**Abby Benedetto**  
Envision Learning Partners

**Tameka McGlawn**  
ConnectEd

**Peter Rivera**  
Los Angeles Unified School District

**Cynthia Ramirez**  
Technology Leadership High School

**Allen Smith**  
Denver Public Schools

**Graysen Walles**  
New Tech Network

**Joey Cienian**  
High School for Recording Arts

**Alex Fratin**  
Madison Metropolitan School District

**Eric Martin**  
Winton Woods High School & Academy of Global Studies

**Thomas Flanagan**  
Providence Public Schools

**Karla Vigil**  
Highlander Institute

**Jose Jimenez**  
A.C.E. Academy for Scholars

**Brianne MacNamara**  
Building 21

**Lynne Wright**  
Oakridge Elementary School

**Maritza Gonzalez**  
Metro Nashville Public Schools

**equityfellows.org**

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“We knew going into this work that all students could benefit from deeper learning practices and instruction - in which learners are constantly motivated and challenged and are able to apply their learning to real life and real experiences,” states Carlos Moreno, Co-Director of the Fellowship and Co-Executive Director of Big Picture Learning. “However, we also know that equitable access to such opportunities is not always available to traditionally underserved populations, such as youth in poverty and English Language learners.”

Thus far, through projects overseen by Cohorts 1 and 2, the Deeper Learning Equity Fellows have -- among other things -- identified the emergence of bilingual populations impacted by New York City's universal Pre-K coverage and signaled the importance of rethinking teacher education programs to equip and prepare new educators for the complexity of preparing students to meet 21st century challenges.

"Our collective commitment to equity unites us in a very timely struggle," adds Claire Sylvan, Co-Director of the Fellowship and Founding Director of Internationals Network for Public Schools. "The Equity Fellows will play a pivotal role as America struggles to address long-standing issues of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, disability and poverty."

The Equity Fellows are supported in their projects by nationally recognized mentors -- like Linda Darling-Hammond, Christopher Emdin, Deborah Jewell-Sherman, and more -- who will guide them on their journeys to right educational wrongs. Inevitably, the fellows will face obstacles and barriers to their work. Equity Fellow Mentors are well-positioned to provide guidance, focus, advice and expertise through the course of the fellowship.

Thanks to the support of ECMC Foundation, the Equity Fellows will be convened and supported in a variety of ways throughout the fellowship. "We are honored to support the important work of the Deeper Learning Equity Fellows," states Kyle Miller, senior program director, ECMC Foundation. "We support Deeper Learning practices and believe the Equity Fellows have an important role in creating awareness and adoption of these practices in communities across the country."

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**The Deeper Learning Equity Fellows** is a cohort-based leadership program that aims to develop, strengthen, and sustain a group of diverse and exceptional leaders who will influence the policies and practices that expand access to Deeper Learning in public education across the country. [www.equityfellows.org](http://www.equityfellows.org)

For over 20 years, **Big Picture Learning** has worked to put students at the center of their own learning. Today, hundreds of BPL network schools in the United States and around the world work together and in their communities to reimagine and reshape education. BPL designs innovative learning environments, researches and replicates new models for learning, and trains educators to serve as leaders in their schools and communities. [www.bigpicturelearning.org](http://www.bigpicturelearning.org)

**Internationals Network's** vision is to ensure that all recent immigrant students who are English Language Learners have access to a quality high school education that prepares them for college, career and full participation in democratic society. We provide quality public education for recently arrived immigrants by growing and sustaining a strong national network of innovative International High Schools, while supporting states, districts, schools, educators and policymakers to improve education for all English Language learners. [www.internationalsnps.org](http://www.internationalsnps.org)

Based in Los Angeles, **ECMC Foundation's** mission is to inspire and facilitate improvements that affect educational outcomes -- especially among underserved populations -- through evidence-based innovation. The Foundation makes investments in three focus areas: Teacher and Leader Development, College Success and Career Readiness. It is one of several affiliates under the ECMC Group enterprise based in Minneapolis. [www.ecmcfoundation.org](http://www.ecmcfoundation.org)