

Melinda Forward, NBCT
www.theschoolcultureproject.org
505.977.6547
melindaforward@yahoo.com



Melinda Forward, NBCT

Melinda Forward, founder and CEO of The School Culture Project, delivers engaging workshops and presentations supporting professional development in:

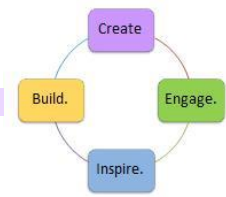
- ◆ School Culture
- ◆ Student Voice
- ◆ Strategic Service Learning
- ◆ Classroom Culture
- ◆ Student Engagement
- ◆ Community Engagement
- ◆ Language Acquisition
- ◆ Stress Management
- ◆ And much more!

All sessions are based on current brain research, best practices, and experience.

She has 26 years of teaching experience, including primary, secondary and University.

Melinda's passion, enthusiasm, engaging activities, and research-based strategies have made her a successful presenter at state, regional, national conferences, and within school districts. She presents practical information in a fun, experiential environment, using simple, yet powerful strategies. She also coaches teachers and students to incorporate these strategies in their within their classrooms and school. She focuses on building systems and growing people who have the tools and energy to create and sustain positive school culture.

Participants consistently rave about Melinda's workshops and presentations based on her passion, engaging style and practical strategies.



Testimonials from Participants

"Working with Melinda on the *We All Have a Voice!* Project has brought my staff and students into the social empathy awareness that was necessary for Polk Middle School. We have launched the idea of creating and erecting a wall in order for students and staff to have a venue for their voices. My students have utilized the activities that Melinda has presented and without her guidance and outreach, our students would not have created a vision for our school. This project has united our students around a common goal--social emotional learning for each other. We can't wait to work with Melinda again and we appreciate her commitment to positive social change for students."

—Michelle Armijo, *Middle School Principal, Albuquerque*



"WOW!! The Route 66 Elementary School Roadrunners really stepped up to the 1,000 Thank You's CHALLENGE!! Not only did we meet our goal but we exceeded our goal--3 times! Thank You!"

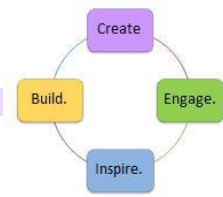
—Karen Demarest, *Elementary Teacher, Edgewood*

"I cannot state enough about Ms. Forward's accomplishments. She is energetic, efficient, compassionate, positive, and passionate about anything she undertakes. I believe that she has been the most concerned, actively involved teacher at our school who has worked to create a better culture for all, even when there has not been the needed support. Ms. Forward believes in her cause and the needs of the students, which includes all the other components, and as such, she will continue to push for this cause with positive momentum."

—Shirley DeMedina, *Retired Teacher, Albuquerque*

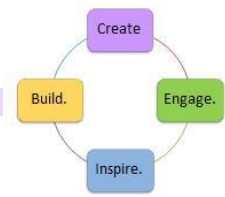
"I have changed through this process because before I felt like I didn't have a voice but with all the projects we've done, I feel like I do have a voice. I would tell other schools it's a great project to help other students feel like they have a voice and it's a great way to be together as a school."

—Crystal Pinales, *Junior Student, Albuquerque*



Presenter Highlights

- ◆ National Board Certification, World Languages – Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- ◆ Bachelor of Arts in French Language and Literature with a minor in English, Secondary Education certification, and Honors in French, Eastern Michigan University
- ◆ Intensive Brain-Based Training with Eric Jensen, 2014 – 2016, *Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind*, *Perfect Presenter*, *Game-Changers*, *ASCD National Conventions*
- ◆ ASCD Feature Teacher - Documentary Video for *Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind*, highlighted for innovative strategies and programs working with a Title 1 school,
- ◆ ASCD 2016 National Presenter, ASCD National Convention, Atlanta, GA – 3 Surprising Tools to Engage High-Poverty Students
- ◆ Founder, Inspiration SUPERSTARS ACADEMY: *We All Have a Voice!* Campus Empowerment Program, training students who feel like they don't have a voice
- ◆ International Presenter, Global Maker Day, edcamp Global, on topics of school culture-building, student voice, cycle of empowerment, the power of gratitude and positivity
- ◆ ACTFL 2015 National Presenter, San Diego, CA – Interactive session: *Art in Action!*
- ◆ Certified Level III Teacher, New Mexico, 26 years' experience, 10 years Title 1 - *French, English, Social Studies*
- ◆ In-service Presenter – Albuquerque Public Schools on topics of school culture, technology, language acquisition, community organization and outreach
- ◆ School Culture PLC Leader – Albuquerque Public Schools, working on development and growth of strong programs and leaders for innovative school culture building
- ◆ 1994 – present, National Presenter and Author, *Culture Quest Language Institute*, on topics such as language acquisition, classroom culture and climate, curriculum development



Most Popular Workshops and Presentations

Please note that Melinda trains not only staff, but also students. It is her belief that we can transform schools from the inside out by empowering students with the skills they need to express their voice and become activists for positive change in their schools.

Engaging High-Poverty Students – Positive School Culture Building

High-energy, hands-on workshops with a wealth of practical tools are sure to inspire and empower teachers, administrators to boost student achievement.

3 Surprising Tools to Engage High-Poverty Students

If you are struggling with issues like student engagement, discipline, and negativity, this session may be a game changer for you. You will learn 3 simple, but very powerful innovative Service-Learning projects. Learn the tools to engage students, fuel achievement and help them take ownership of their education. Each innovative idea teaches how to build student voice (*We All Have a Voice!*), boost communication skills (TAG teams) and teamwork (better social “glue”). Learn quick tools to implement these campus-wide achievement boosters.

Pass Positivity On! 4 Tools to Engage Students in Inspiration Schools

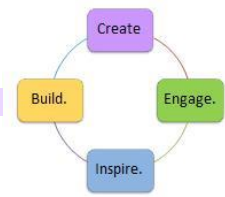
Can’t decide? Mix and match any 4 of these tools and I will customize an exciting and energizing presentation for you, including the brain research supporting each project and the basic implementation steps.

1,000 Thank Yous CHALLENGE
Mirror Messages
Conversation Spaces
Sidewalk Talk
Inspiration ROCKS!
Dream Walls

Discovery Projects
Magical Mindfulness
Stress Less Hour
Student Voice Surveys
TAG (Things Are Great) Teams
Independent Inspiration Projects

Stress LESS for Success: Positive Mindsets and Mindfulness***

Stress is a normal part of life, but in a school it can be heightened by many factors, including poverty. Get simple, yet effective tools to help you manage states, stress, and attitudes. Learn how to use TAG (Things Are Great) Teams, Stress Less Hour, and Gratitude Habits to incorporate growth mindsets and mindfulness into your school culture. Fun, hands-on activities will engage you with gratitude, positivity, and humor to reduce your stress and create an environment for success. ***This practical workshop can be tailored for staff or students!



INSPIRING PLCs – Building Systems, Growing People

Get ready for a new way of thinking! This workshop will help you distinguish between culture and climate as two distinct features to any school. Learn the power that you have to establish and grow a school environment where everyone thrives. What is your school story? Who is driving the growth of your school culture? It can be everyone! Put the pieces together to create diverse teams to develop a deep culture of positivity. Brain research and Social Emotional Learning are two key elements to this workshop. Build a PLC system that can grow powerful leaders of your school culture and achievement.

Dynamic Language Acquisition: Teach Essential Vocabulary Mastery in ANY Content Area to Boost Student Achievement

Schools in poverty often experience a high level of ESL students, some who struggle in ALL content areas for a lack of basic vocabulary understanding. This simple, student-friendly strategy trains teachers how to teach key vocabulary first so students understand lessons. Understanding leads to confidence, an enthusiasm for learning and better behaviors. Participants will learn Norwegian to experience the strategy first-hand.

Training High-Poverty Students to Build and Grow School Culture

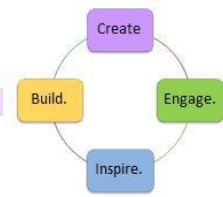
*Empower **students** to transform your school culture from the inside out!*

Inspiration SUPERSTARS – Stand Up & Speak Out!

Empower the “Quiet Leaders” in your school, the students who may be disconnected or disengaged. In this presentation, students and staff sponsors will engage, clarify, and build their skills as activists (Inspiration SUPERSTARS) through fun, hands-on activities. Each activity teaches how to build student voice (ME map), vision (INSPIRATION Project), and build confidence (Inspiration Stations). By the end of the workshop, students will have developed Inspiration Projects, engaged campus community, built relationships, and more. Learn simple tools to build strong, active student leaders, Inspiration SUPERSTARS.

DREAM Walls: Building Student Voice with Hope & Optimism

Are you harnessing the power of students’ hopes and dreams? Learn a powerful tool to connect your campus with new conversations. During this one-day workshop, your students will find a special wall for a “Conversation Space”. Then they will use chalkboard paint to create a DREAM Wall, where everyone can share their thoughts and dreams. Prompts can change. Classes can spend a “Week with the DREAM Wall”. Students will build new relationships. This workshop will help you create new opportunities to engage new conversations, inspire connections, and build a stronger campus-culture focused on relationships.



Staff & Student Leadership LAB: Together We Grow Stronger!

How connected are your staff and students in building campus culture, together? In this hands-on workshop, staff and students will reflect on their experiences at school, learn new strategies for campus-wide engagement, write a new school story, and build a community asset map to find a larger web of support. Together, staff and students will plan an Inspiration SUPERSTAR Showcase, to celebrate Inspiration SUPERSTAR Projects, connect with a wider community, and invite others to join the campaigns for change. Learn how you can build a stronger campus culture by connecting the power of student and staff voice.

Tapping the Power of Tech – SUPERSTARS & Global Connections

Your students may LOVE technology, but are they using it to change the world? In this workshop, SUPERSTARS will continue their work on their INSPIRATION Project by learning the tools to create their own basic website and blog. It's easier than they will believe and a powerful tool for any activist. This hands-on workshop will help SUPERSTARS take their INSPIRATION Project to a whole new level – the global community. They will change the world.

Administrator Solutions

Administrators are sure to be inspired by the powerful strategies they learn through this workshop.

Lead with Title 1 School Culture Innovation Builders

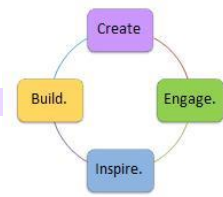
Leaders will discover three simple and powerful tools that shift school culture from “us and them” to a unified “we” campus of collaboration. Learn how to lead the step-by-step process to organize and manage simple campus-wide service learning projects at your school. Teach the culture-building process to students so they are able to evaluate their school culture (Walkabout), design a solution to address key issues (Inspiration Project), and create positive change while inspiring others (*We All Have a Voice!*). This session will inspire you to lead with fresh free or low-cost ideas to engage and motivate greater student engagement and achievement

Workshop Length and Modifications:

Standard workshops are a full day. Many workshops can be extended for 2–3 days, depending on the needs of your school. If you would like a half-day workshop, Melinda is happy to discuss changes you prefer.

If you are interested in consistent, continuous training, Melinda can recommend how to sequence workshops based on your school needs and goals.

Coaching before and after workshops is also possible. Please contact Melinda to discuss your school situation and your vision so she can develop a coaching program to best fit your needs.



Most Popular World Language Workshops

Organizing and Managing an Effective Classroom

Come to this workshop to learn tricks and tips to keep your class moving smoothly while maintaining high standards and making students responsible learners. Learn how to manage homework, class participation, group work, grading, and notebooks with a minimal amount of time and energy! Learn how to connect easily with parents via Edmodo. This workshop will give you over 10 fresh tools that could save you time and energy.

Creating Cohesive Classroom Communities

Create communities through Conversation Clubs, Class Families, Conversation cards, and hands-on projects. Engage students through extended class family simulations to integrate culture in a personal and meaningful way. Manage homework and grading by holding students accountable and empowering them to help each other. Incorporate Tumblr and Edmodo to simplify your communication with students and parents. Transform your classroom and engage your students through meaningful classroom community.

Dynamic Language Acquisition, an exciting and effective strategy for language acquisition

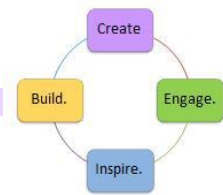
An easy-to-implement, student-friendly immersion program creatively combines TPR with culture-based stories, music, poetry, movies, and more. Student success leads to confidence and enthusiasm for language learning. Hands-on strategies can be applied to any content, text, novels, and more.

Bright Beginnings – Creating the Foundation for Success

Learn the basic steps of getting a class started from day one. See Dynamic Language Acquisition™ techniques and how they work from a student perspective. This beginning workshop will teach you all you need to know to apply these strategies. Hands-on lesson planning will prepare you to teach a lesson to your own classes!! Come experience Norwegian and your classes will never be the same!

Motivation and Inspiring First Year Language Classes

Learn the basic steps of Dynamic Language Acquisition™ and how it works from a student and teacher perspective. This beginning workshop will teach you all you need to know to apply this method. to your personal teaching situation. Lesson planning practice is included! Come learn some Norwegian and see the power of Dynamic Language Acquisition™!



Overcoming Obstacles – Advanced Grammar and Fluency

Learn how continue to apply advanced Dynamic Language Acquisition™ techniques for intermediate and advanced classes while keeping classes interesting year after year. A sample lesson will show Dynamic Language Acquisition™ in action teaching a Norwegian story in the past tense. Learn how to use the Verb Timeline, culture through hands-on activities, and higher-level thinking skills through varied extension activities. See how you can meet National Standards with energy and enthusiasm!

Transforming the Textbook

Bring your textbook, index cards, high-lighters and be ready to organize your text with Dynamic Language Acquisition™! Get together with other teachers to brainstorm, divide, and conquer your curriculum with teacher-empowered, student-centered techniques.

Creative Culture: The Class Family

Learn how to create a family environment with your class through this model. From birthdays to names to profession, let your students create a new identity with classmates to identify with the target language culture and traditions.

Energizing Ideas for Tired Teachers

Learn some new techniques and activities that will energize you and your students. This in-service is based on teacher-tested activities as they relate to Howard Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences, Bloom’s Taxonomy, and National Standards. Activities will engage all students without intense teacher preparation. If you need some new ideas, this in-service is for you! A teacher-share time is also included to allow participants time to share an activity that really works in their own classroom

Workshop Length and Modifications:

Standard workshops are a full day. Many workshops can be extended for 2–3 days, depending on the needs of your school. If you would like a half-day workshop, Melinda is happy to discuss changes you prefer.

If you are interested in consistent, continuous training, Melinda can recommend how to sequence workshops based on your school needs and goals.

Coaching before and after workshops is also possible. Please contact Melinda to discuss your school situation and your vision so she can develop a coaching program to best fit your needs.