

Kari Dendurent Career Grant  
Education Elements Personalized Learning Summit 2018  
San Francisco, CA  
May 1-4, 2018

I chose to participate in the Education Elements Personalized Learning Summit in an effort to support the KPBSD Personalized Learning Initiative. On the first day of the conference, I attended the Lyft Tech Company Tour. This tour included travelling to the Lyft Headquarters, touring the facility and participating as an audience member for the Panel discussion as presented by four millennials from Lyft. After participating in the panel discussion, I reflected on key ideas to bring back as well as a to-do list for next steps to assist the students at Homer Middle School for their transition to post-secondary options.

For my professional actions, I would like to find high tech businesses in the state of Alaska for teachers and/or student to visit to discover how hiring and careers have changed. One example provided by a colleague is to visit the BP Anchorage Offices. The second action plan is to contact the Anchorage Economic and Business Development Council to inquire about opportunities for students and staff. These opportunities could include finding individuals to interview for student projects, professional development opportunities for teacher during pre-service, and the possibility for summer internships. The third action step is simple. Have Fortune 500 magazines or Entrepreneur magazines available in the office for students to peruse while waiting to see the principal. Oftentimes, students who may not be as successful in the traditional school setting can be inspired by something non-traditional.

The final key take-away from the panel discussion has changed my mindset about hiring. A fact provided by one of the Lyft employees is that baby boomers and millennials change jobs at the same rate but what makes it different is the millennials change their career while the baby boomers remain in the same career field. The panelists also discussed millennials jump jobs as a way to grow professionally. This practice is encouraged in Silicon Valley as the companies feel jumping jobs to keep up to date is better than getting an advanced degree. This mindset is a change for me as I usually review resumes and am concerned about loyalty as shown by longevity.

The second item of the conference that has provided a shift to reflect upon was from one of the keynote speakers, George Couros author of the Innovator's Mindset. I read this book over the summer and have implemented "What did you learn at Homer Middle School today" daily videos. His message to share your story and to create new and better ideas and to share those ideas. One of the take away actions steps I would like to implement at Homer Middle School is to have Innovation Day. Currently our students take a course in Technology, Robotics and Project Lead the Way but these classes offer little in the sense of creativity. I am hopeful with the basics the students receive through their enrichment classes, that they will be able to really focus on the process

and the product for their innovation. I am also hopeful this may lead to a district and a state completion.

The third session I would like to highlight was Win the Millennial Talent War with your Organization's Culture. I chose this particular session to find out how to attract and retain millennial staff at Homer Middle School. This session provided low cost great ways to engage this age group. Specific ideas were presented in the areas of Millennial's thoughts, reality, values, how to attract millennials, and perks. The presenter also has a book on-line Careercation. One immediate take away that is a fun way to recognize and celebrate employees are party poppers. This is being done by a superintendent in Texas who is trying to shake things up and get people engaged, Another idea presented is to swap a principal and a group of teachers to another building one day. I think I will look more into this action step.

Overall the conference was beneficial to my professional development. I enjoyed spending time with my fellow colleagues at the KPBSD as well as getting to know more career professionals. One suggestion I would like to make from this experience is that if a group of individuals attend conferences from the KPBSD, a reflection session at the end of the conference for next steps and implementation of ideas might be a great way to ensure the conference can have the biggest impact for a larger audience.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Dunde". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

5/8/18