

SWSW EDU

March 4-7, 2019 Austin Texas

This conference provided a wide range of speakers, ideas, and information to provide learning opportunities, to build our knowledge of what is working in our schools, and to network with people from around the country to discuss our teaching practices and experiences to support our learning communities and students.

SXSW was organized around Program Tracks

- **Accessibility & Inclusion**
- **Adult Learning**
- **Arts**
- **Business & Investment**
- **Data**
- **Early Learning**
- **Emerging Tech**
- **Equity**
- **Higher Education**
- **Informal Learning**
- **K-12 Education**
- **Language Learning**
- **Leadership**
- **Learning Spaces**
- **Science of Learning**
- **SEL**
- **Student Agency**

High Lander Institute

One session that was particularly interesting was Highlander Institute, which focused on Blended Learning and Personalized Learning. The speaker wrote a book *Pathways to Personalization*.

4 main Challenges

1. Top Down approach versus Bottom up - Does it come from district office mandating the change or do we get teachers to start it?
2. Single Solutions versus Multiple Routes - Do we offer multiple ways or do we require everyone to follow one path?
3. Widely Implement or Base it on Demand or Interest - Do we require everyone to jump on board or do we allow a few to implement to start?

4. Specific Mandates or Relevant Choice - Do we allow choice or do we dictate what path to follow?

Highlander Institute:

- Started with a pilot of teachers who were on board with personalized learning
- They reported to staff their challenges and successes
- They provided data to back up what they were doing worked
- They developed a design team
- Created a knowledge base
- Shadowed students
- Study data along with the local conditions
- Emphasized
- Differentiating, Pacing, and Choice
- In their Pilot programs
- Vision
- Select Practices backed with data, Brainstorm Instructional strategies, Determine Entry Points
- Staff Percents
 - 2.5 Percent are your innovators
 - 13.5 percent Early adapters
 - 34 % Early Majority—will need to see it in action to buy in
 - 34% Late Majority- need to see long term data to buy in
 - 16 % Laggards

Highlander Institute discussed many great points that support how KPBSD is implementing Personalized Learning. It emphasized keeping a long-term outlook with making sure we continue to share that challenges along with the successes.

There were many debates and other presentations that covered leading trends and topics across education. I want to thank the Board for continuing to support career development which gives us these opportunities to grow and learn.

Randy Neil



3/25/19