

Deeper Learning in the Time of COVID-19: New Hampshire

An AYPF Webinar Series (Part 1 of 3)

Panelist Biographies and Photos



Sarah Collins Lench
Chief Curiosity Officer & Learning Networks Director
Center for Innovation in Education
Twitter: [@sarahlench](https://twitter.com/sarahlench), [@CIEleadlearning](https://twitter.com/CIEleadlearning)

Sarah Collins Lench is the Director of Learning Networks at the Center for Innovation in Education. Her colleagues have dubbed her CIE's "Chief Curiosity Officer" due to her passion for cultivating spaces where partners from all levels of education systems can dig into complex questions through a process of shared inquiry and learning. Sarah directs the Assessment for Learning Project, a grant-making and field-building initiative inviting educators to fundamentally rethink the role of assessment for learning, agency, and equity.

Prior to joining CIE, Sarah was the Director of Policy and Innovation at the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) where she led a number of research and design projects for state education agencies, national organizations, and philanthropic foundations.

An artist at heart, Sarah began her career working in nonprofit community arts and youth development, later conducting research and policy analyses on arts education for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and the Oregon Arts Commission.

Sarah founded a local network of parents and caregivers of children on the autism spectrum, volunteers as a special education family advocate, and serves on the Special Education Advisory Board for her local school district in Corvallis, Oregon.



Jonathan Vander Els
directs innovative, competency-based projects
New Hampshire Learning Initiative
co-author of *Breaking With Tradition: The Shift to Competency Based Learning in PLCs at Work* (Solution Tree, 2018)
Twitter: [@jvanderels](https://twitter.com/jvanderels), [@nhlearningin](https://twitter.com/nhlearningin)

Formerly, Jonathan was a principal in an elementary school recognized nationally as a model PLC and competency-based school. Jonathan has consulted, coached, and presented at conferences and Institutes throughout the United States, and lives with his wife and three children on the NH Seacoast.



Ellen Hume-Howard
executive director
New Hampshire Learning Initiative
Twitter: [@MrsHumeHoward](#), [@nhlearningin](#)

Ellen Hume-Howard is the executive director of The New Hampshire Learning Initiative (NHLI). In this role, she supports NHLI's vision to assist New Hampshire schools and districts to deepen their innovative practices in education and improve learning for all students. Ellen has also worked with state and national experts to design a competency assessment program using performance assessment for state accountability. Ellen currently serves as the curriculum director for the NH PACE project.

Teacher, Student, Administrator Interviewees



Gail Bourn
Academic Coordinator for
Teaching and Learning at
Laconia School District



Nicole Woulfe
6th grade teacher at
Sanborn Regional Middle
School (SRMS)



Caitlin Milner
Student at SRMS



Luke Thomas
Student at SRMS



Anthony Doucet
9th grade teacher at
Souhegan High School
(SHS)



Riley Devine
Student at SHS



Masho Primmer
Student at SHS



Max Syverson
Student at SHS