**Bush Foundation Learning Journey 2019 – 2020 Application**

Thank you for considering applying to the ***Learning Journey*** program. Applications can be submitted to The School Leadership Project via email any time before 12pm CT on Friday, October 25, 2019. Please review the application below and be in touch with Dan Cooley and Katie Barrett Kramer at The School Leadership Project with any questions in the meantime (dcooley@theschoolleadershipproject.org; kbarrettkramer@theschoolleadershipproject.org; (612) 444-2341).

We so appreciate your interest and partnership in this important work. Together, we can expand the network of student-centered learning champions across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the [23 Native nations](https://www.bushfoundation.org/what-we-do/native-nations/about-the-nations) that share that geography, creating the catalysts and communities of change necessary to build momentum and infrastructure and support school-level transformation across our region. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jackie Statum Allen, Bush Foundation

Katie Barrett Kramer & Dan Cooley, The School Leadership Project

**Partners**

**The Bush Foundation**

The Bush Foundation invests in great ideas and the people who power them in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the [23 Native nations](https://www.bushfoundation.org/what-we-do/native-nations/about-the-nations) that share the geography. Since, 1953, the Bush Foundation has worked to inspire and support creative problem solving – within and across sectors – to make our region better for everyone.

We invest in efforts to address specific issues that the Foundation believes are a priority for the region. We manage these investments through our [strategic initiatives](https://www.bushfoundation.org/what-we-do/strategic-initiatives) – [Community Creativity](https://www.bushfoundation.org/community-creativity-initiative), [Education](https://www.bushfoundation.org/education-initiative), [Nation Building](https://www.bushfoundation.org/native-nation-building-initiative) and [Social Business Ventures](https://www.bushfoundation.org/social-business-ventures). Each initiative makes a handful of big investments every year to accomplish a particular goal.

For every student in the region to succeed we need an education system that works for all students. This requires a more personal, more relevant approach to education. The guiding goal for our Education initiative is to make our region the national leader in providing student-centered education that meets the needs and ambitions of all students.

We invest in efforts to make education more relevant for all students in terms of:

* WHO THEY ARE: Create learning environments that welcome and support students from all cultures and backgrounds.
* HOW THEY LEARN: Customize learning to help students learn in a manner and at a pace that meets their individual needs.
* WHAT THEY WANT TO DO: Help students imagine a career and provide them with supports tailored to get them where they want to go.

**The School Leadership Project**

TSLP is an educational strategy and support organization whose work proceeds from the belief that schools can and must play a critical role in the work of social justice. ​ TSLP was founded by partners Dan Cooley and Katie Barrett Kramer, former teachers and school administrators who support community-driven school transformation and strategic school development initiatives with a particular focus on innovative school models. The School Leadership Project shares the Bush Foundation’s goal of making our region a national leader in the work of student-centered learning and working to ensure that every student receives an education that honors who they are, how they learn and where they want to do.

**The Opportunity: The Learning Journey**

Since 2015, the Bush Foundation and TSLP have partnered to offer leaders across MN, ND, SD and the 23 Native nations that share that geography opportunities to grow their knowledge and experience with student-centered learning through the Learning Journey program. Together, we’ve hosted two Learning Journey cohorts and five Network Learning Journey cohorts whose members are engaging stakeholders and building momentum and capacity for change toward student-centered learning in their unique communities and contexts. **This year, we are honored and excited to bring together a Learning Journey cohort comprised of pairs or triads from within the same organization or a shared context.** As you will see in the attached application, the members of each pair or triad should apply jointly as representatives of a nascent community of change.

The overall goal of the Learning Journey is to build champions and momentum for student-centered learning in a diversity of communities and contexts. To do this, selected Learning Leader pairs and triads commit to engaging in a fully-funded, six-month learning sequence comprised of cohort learning sessions and visits to local and national exemplar schools. During these six months, Learning Leaders will spend time reflecting on their learning and thinking about how their learning can best be translated into impact and action in their context.

We support the work of our Learning Leaders with a vision for an educational system that works for all students. In that spirit, we strongly encourage Learning Leaders who represent geographic or cultural communities who have historically had limited access to student-centered learning methodologies or communities experiencing the effects of educational inequity to apply.

**Expectations of Learning Leaders**

**Learning Leaders** will be expected to:

* Participate in the full learning sequence:
	+ Learning Journey kickoff (full day – December 2019)
	+ Local school visits (1-2 half days – January 2020)
	+ National site visit (2 full days – February 2020)
	+ Learning Journey reflection (half day – March 2020)
	+ Regional Student-Centered Learning Convening (full day – May 2020)
* Commit to sharing their learning and leadership with their communities and networks upon completion of the program

**Application Submission and Review**

**Criteria for selection:**

* Demonstrated commitment to cohort learning about the principles and practices of student-centered learning that honors who students are, how they learn and what they want to do
* Alignment of Learning Leader cohort members to the goal of building diverse and diffuse leadership for student-centered learning throughout the Bush Foundation funding region
* Likelihood of Learning Leader cohort members being able to positively impact communities experiencing educational inequity

**Timeline:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| October 10th, 2019 | Application published |
| October 25th, 2019 | Applications Due |
| October 25th – 31st, 2019  | Review of Applications by Bush Foundation and TSLP |
| November 6th, 2019 | 2019-2020 Learning Leader cohort announced |
| December 2019 | Learning Journey 2019-2020 Kickoff session |
| January 2020 | Local school visits  |
| February 2020 | National Visit *(travel coordinated and covered by the Bush Foundation via TLSP)* |
| March 2020 | Learning Journey Reflection session |
| May 2020 | Bush Foundation Regional Student-Centered Learning Convening |

**Learning Journey Application 2019 - 2020**

**Learning Leaders Information**

*Please share the names, roles and reason for inclusion of your 2-3 proposed Learning Leaders on the* ***Learning Journey – Proposed Learning Leaders*** *document that follows on page 6 of this application. Additionally, please answer the questions below to help us understand the impact that participation in a Learning Journey would have for your pair or triad and for the students in your community or region.*

Please identify one of these proposed Learning Leaders as the primary contact for your pair or triad:

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**Application Questions**

1. **Commitment to Learn:** Why do you want to participate in the Learning Journey program to explore the power and potential of student-centered learning? What ideas, values or possibilities lead your pair or triad to apply? *(Please keep responses to 150 words or less)*
2. **Leadership and Impact:** Please describe the ways your pair or triad aligns to the Bush Foundation’s goal of building diverse and diffuse leadership for student-centered learning in MN, SD, ND and the 23 Native nations that share that geography. What role do you envision your organization or context playing in building momentum, support or capacity for this work in the next 3-5 years? (*Please keep responses to 150 words or less)*
3. **Ability to Commit:** If members of your pair or triad will need approval to participate in the Learning Journey, please solicit and attach a letter of support from relevant supervisors or managers. If this is not necessary for any members of your proposed pair or triad, please just note so below.

**Bush Foundation Learning Journey – Proposed Learning Leaders**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Email address | Phone | Organization(s) and title(s)/role(s) | How is this person positioned to advance student-centered learning in your context or community? |
| *Please limit responses to 1-2 sentences per question per person* |
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