

Excellence and Equity

RSVP Showcase

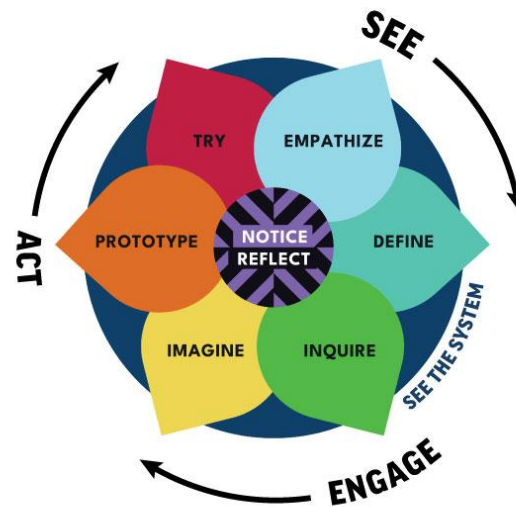
May 21, 2026

4:30 – 6:00 pm



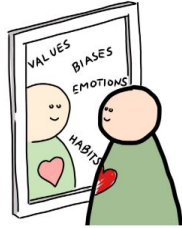
Overview

- Welcome & Inclusion
- Background & Overview
- RSVP Ambassador Showcase
- Community Feedback & Shout Outs
- Feedback & Closure



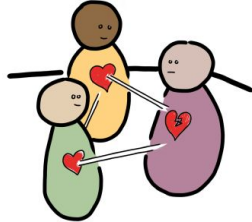
Source: [National Equity Project](#)

Bringing the Graduate Portrait to Life



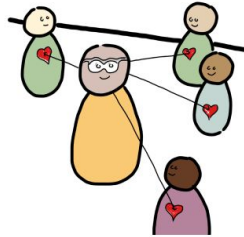
Practice Self-Awareness

Who we are determines how we design. Looking in the "mirror" reveals what we see, how we relate, and how our perspectives impact our practice.



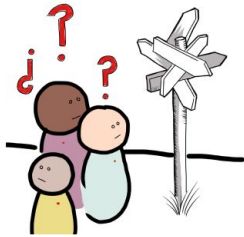
Build Relational Trust

Invest in relationships with intention, especially across difference. Honor stories. Practice empathetic listening.



Focus on Human Values

Get to know the community we are designing with in as many different ways as possible. Anchor all of our decision-making in human values.



Embrace Complexity

Recognize that equity challenges are complex and messy. Stay open to possibility. Powerful design emerges from the mess, not from avoiding it.



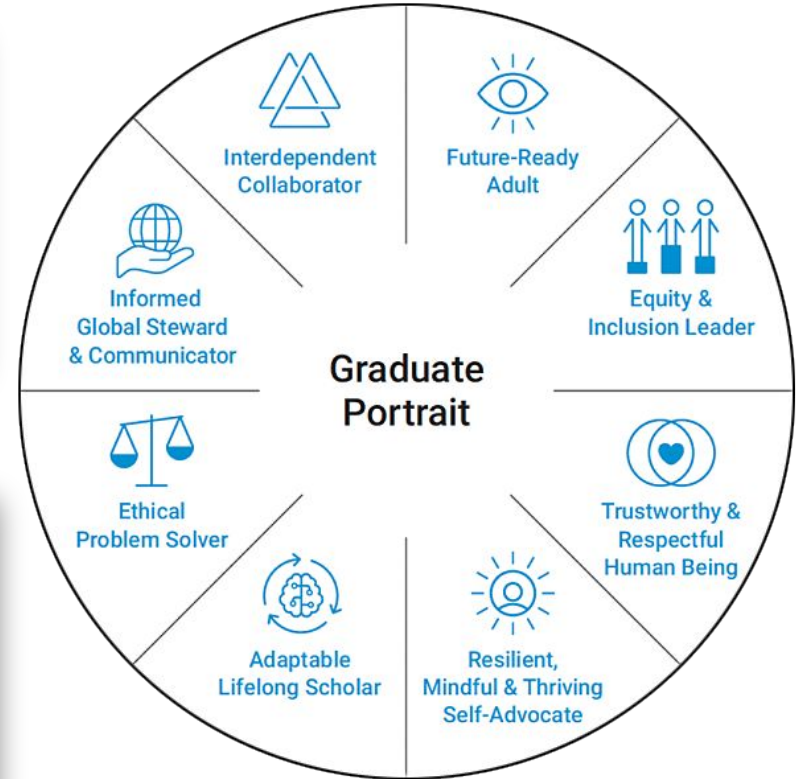
Seek Liberatory Collaboration

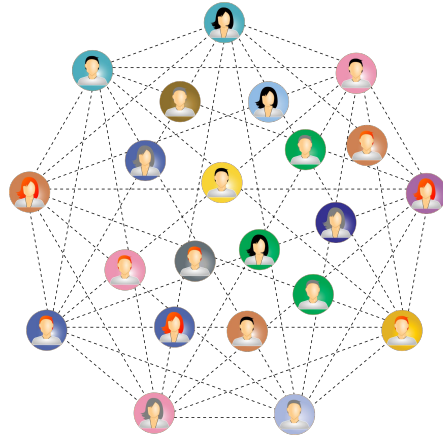
Recognize differences in power and identity to design "with" instead of "for." Design for belonging.



Take Action to Learn

The complexity of oppression must be addressed with courageous ongoing action. Experiment as a way to think and learn – without attachment to outcome.





Welcome & Inclusion

Overarching Purpose: RSVP



- Elevate student voice and student experience to inform school and district decision making (Core Values)
- Provide a structure for two-way communication and co-design partnerships between adults and students (System Portrait)
- Provide a safe place for students to activate the leadership skills that they are learning and/or developing in alignment with the Graduate Portrait
- Build relationships between adults and students where all voices are equal (Adult Portrait)

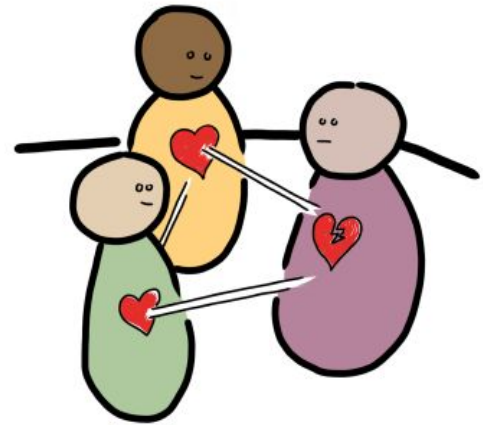
Welcome & Inclusion

Think back over the course of your entire educational experience:

- When did you feel the most **heard**?
- When did you feel the most **seen**?
- When did you feel the most **agency**?

Pair up with someone you don't know and share your story.

Consider how you can support others in being heard, seen, and agentic today!



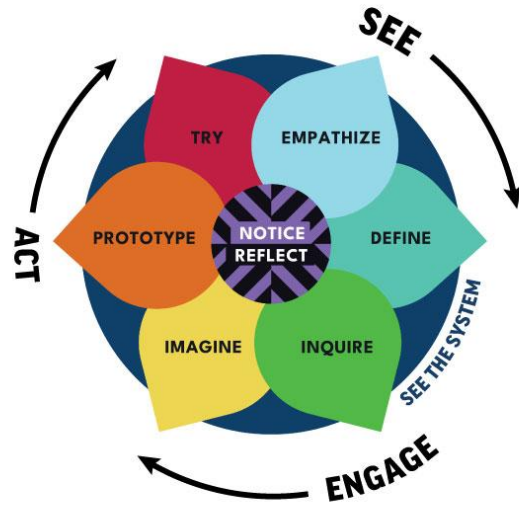
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Our Work 2025–2026

"By centering students' [and families'] needs through the liberatory design process, we repositioned students [and families] as centers of knowledge. We listened to them in ways that shifted our practice, and we recognized that both teachers and students [and their families] have the capacity to educate each other... Our students [and families] recognized that their voices and perspectives mattered, and they began to advocate for themselves in new ways."

Jessica Lee Stovall, Lamar Timmons-Long, Thomas J. Rodney and Taylor Hall
"Black Teachers' Use of Liberatory Design to Promote Literacies of Healing"
(Stovall 2023)



Practice self-awareness
(identity, emotions, power)
and situational awareness
(context, people, history)

Pause to reflect on actions,
impact, emotions, relationship -
and adjust intentions, direction,
presence

Share prototypes with
interest holders - to learn
and improve your design

Listen to stories from those
impacted by the challenge - and
build relationship in the process

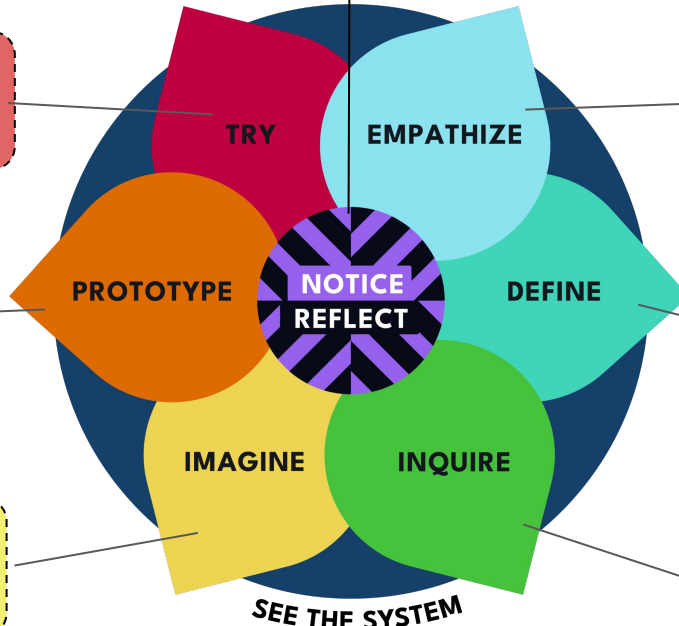
Build rough versions of
potential approaches - to
help you think and learn

Frame the challenge and opportunity;
determine how complex it is -- and if
we need to understand it better
before designing

Get outside of your box
and imagine “what if?!”

Design small “safe-to-fail” actions
to learn more about your situation
- to inform your design direction

Recognize patterns of inequity, look at the system
creating those—and identify a challenge to address



Student Showcase



Process Options

- ☐ Student(s) present (8 min)
- ☐ Ask clarifying questions (2 min)
 - ☐ Tell me more about...
 - ☐ What do you mean by....?
 - ☐ How did you...?
- ☐ Ask probing questions (2 min)
 - ☐ Why did you...?
 - ☐ Had you considered...? Why? Why not?
 - ☐ What did you learn when...?
- ☐ Celebrations, Insights, and Comments (3 min)

- ☐ Student(s) present (8 min)
- ☐ Open Discussion (potential prompts)
 1. What went especially well? Why?
 2. What could have gone better?
What will you do differently moving forward?
 3. What has changed as a result of your efforts?
 4. How have you grown as a leader?

Showcase



Showcase Shout Outs

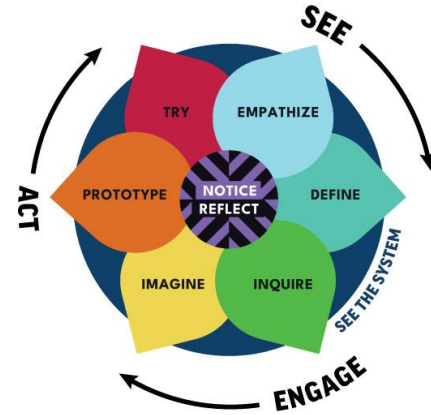
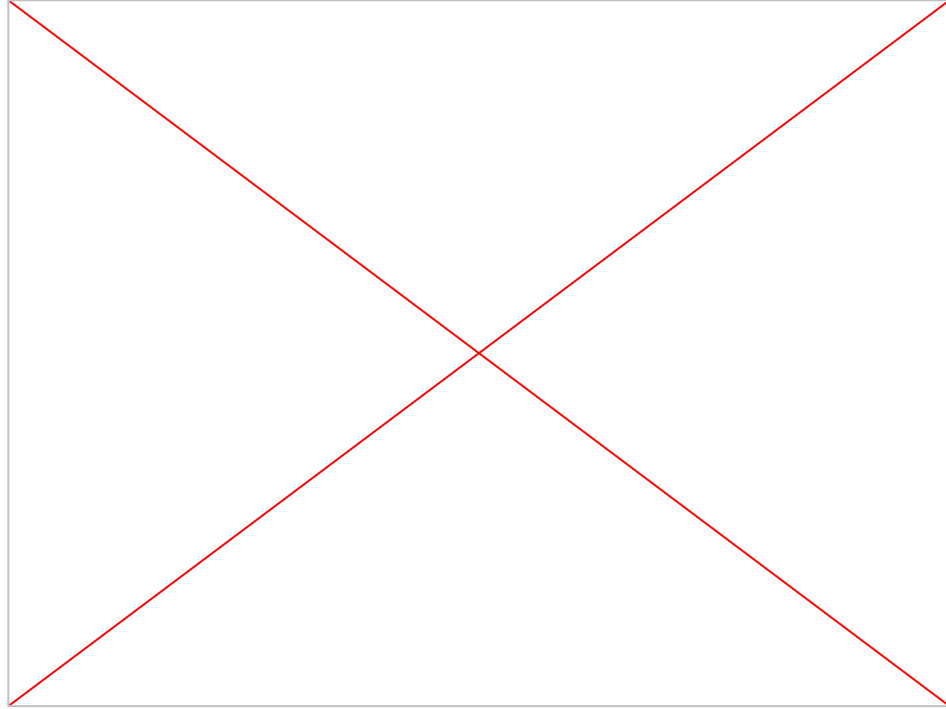
Feedback and Shout Outs

Invite voices from the community to share highlights across schools, appreciations for student work, and dreams for further student engagement.

Give students an opportunity to share their learnings, insights, and shout outs.



Pinning Ceremony



Closing Reflection

"By centering students' [and families'] needs through the liberatory design process, we repositioned students [and families] as centers of knowledge. We listened to them in ways that shifted our practice, and we recognized that both teachers and students [and their families] have the capacity to educate each other... Our students [and families] recognized that their voices and perspectives mattered, and they began to advocate for themselves in new ways."

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