

THE COMMUNITY

ITEN's work is founded on the idea that change happens through cross-cultural relationship-building. How do we do it?

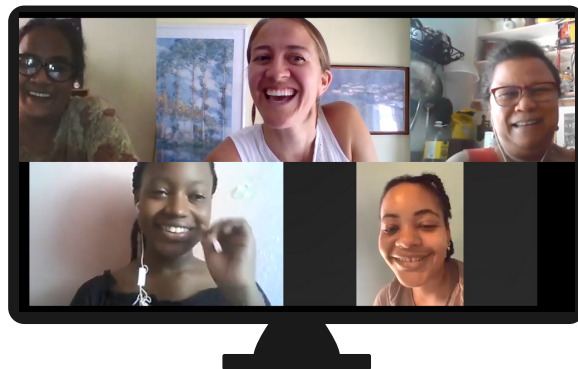
In the 2020 cycle, Project Teams and Teacher Fellows gathered for a series of five interactive community dialogue sessions to get to know each other better through small and large group discussions to explore topics of extreme importance regarding transforming education and education systems of the Americas.

COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP GATHERINGS

Crafted by ITEN's Project Teams Coordinator, Alison Owens, these strategic gatherings throughout the Project Teams cycle focus on the following:

- Getting to Know You
- Using a Logic Model
- Good Communication
- Debunking Systemic Mentalities
- Defining Leadership
- Project Sustainability

"When we share, we inspire!"



LET'S MEET! – round 1



BREAKOUT ROOMS...

- ▶ 1 – YOUR NAME
- ▶ 2 – AFFILIATION – Where are you from? What do you do?
- ▶ 3 – A TALENT
- ▶ 4 – WHY?! – Why did you join Project Teams?

... 10 MINUTES...

"Today, finally, I found what I was looking for. As a teacher educator at the university, I had never before met anyone [else] who had that same spirit for changing education."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU (GTKY)

Interactive session I-IV (all sessions)

ITEN Community & Leadership Gatherings begin with GTKY activities. Participants are divided into groups of 3-4 using the breakout rooms feature in Zoom, and spend 10 minutes introducing themselves and answering whatever questions of the day are posed by the facilitator. The activities are repeated 2-3 times with different small groups. The purpose of these activities is to help build community among the ITEN Project Team members and Teacher Fellows, in an effort to foster a strong network of education professionals, supporting one another across the Americas.

USING A LOGIC MODEL

Interactive session I

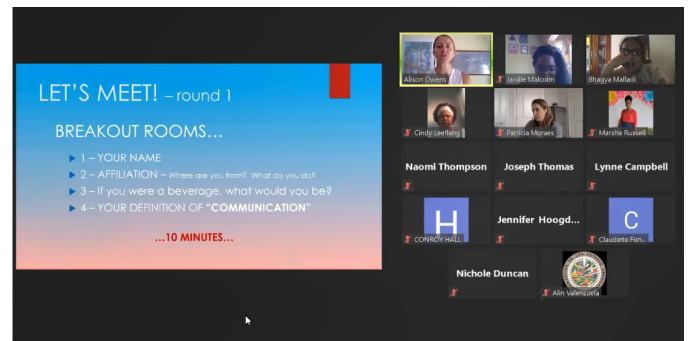
After the GTKY activity, participants are guided through a quick elaboration on how to use a Logic Model. Then, they are prompted with a series of questions to ask one another within their respective Project Teams (in breakout rooms) in an effort to provoke deeper thought and development of their Project Team's Logic Model. The purpose of this session is to help Project Teams better align their vision & goals with their desired short/long-term outcomes.

Problem Statement: Write the problem that your goal statement is trying to solve.				
Goal: Write the goal that describes your expected Project Team product at the end of this 6 month work.				
Rationale: Explain how achieving your goal will help to solve the problem you have identified.	Inputs: Describe what resources you need to accomplish your goal (people, time, materials, knowledge, money, etc.)	Activities: Describe the major activities you need to execute in order to accomplish your goal.	Outputs/Products: 1 month: Explain what will be produced within the first month of your Project Team work. 3 month: Explain what will be produced within the first three months of your Project Team work. (Consider that your team will be expected to share out these outputs in Lima, Peru) 6 month: Explain what will be produced by the end of your Project Team work.	Outcomes: Short Term: 1 year Explain what will be the expected result from your Project Team work one year from now. Medium Term: 2 years Explain what will be the expected result from your Project Team work two years from now. Long Term: Beyond 2 years Explain what will be the expected result from your Project Team work more than two years from now.

GOOD COMMUNICATION

Interactive session II

After the GTKY activity, participants are guided through a quick elaboration on communication principles and techniques of good leaders. Participants are placed in breakout rooms with 3-4 people, simulating good team communication through answering a series of clarifying questions about their own personal experience around “stress.” This activity is followed by a large group discussion about “cultivating curiosity” and the importance of introspection as it relates to good communication. This session’s purpose is to build awareness of our tendencies in communication, and assess the need for changing our habits in order to be more present, compassionate, and empowering teammates and leaders.



*"I think many of us teachers feel very much alone. We often feel like we are following a system where the decisions are made by others. There is very little room for us to make change. But I think that when I come to meetings like this one, one feels part of a community. **I'm not just the only crazy one who wants things to change.**"*

DEBUNKING SYSTEMIC MENTALITIES

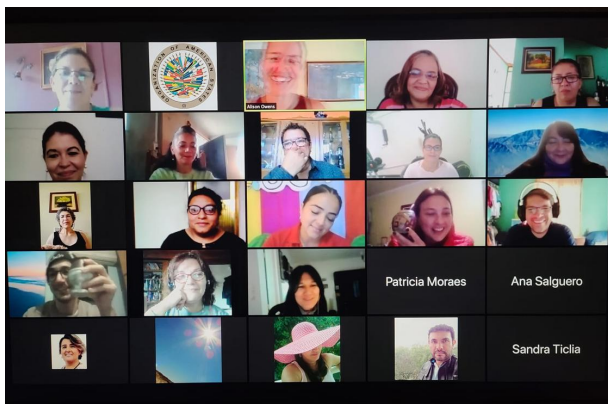
Interactive session III

After the GTKY activity, participants are presented with content regarding systemic mentalities in education as a result of historical periods such as the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution. Small groups of 3-4 are then sent to breakout rooms to discuss systemic mentalities in their respective regions that are inhibiting quality education, followed by a second round of breakout rooms where participants brainstorm their roles in transforming our education systems. The purpose of this session is to create cross-cultural awareness about the broadly shared issue of inhibitive systemic mentalities in education, and to provide a space of solidarity for ITEN professionals to discuss troubleshooting the issues.

DEFINING LEADERSHIP

Interactive session IV

After the GTKY activity, participants are presented with a series of leadership examples to discuss in small groups breakout rooms of 3-4. This session builds directly upon the content presented in session III on debunking systemic mentalities; therefore, the second round of small group breakout rooms are focused on dialogue around ITEN Project Team members and Teacher Fellows' roles as leaders to address inhibitive systemic mentalities, and discuss steps they can take to influence necessary transformation in education in the Americas.



PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Interactive session V

After the GTKY activity, the facilitator will present questions about best practices in sustainability regarding Project Team work. Participants are then grouped by Project Team to discuss and develop a sustainability plan for their respective project. The purpose of this session is to promote the norm of building consciously sustainable projects in order to progress more efficiently and effectively in transforming education in the Americas.