



# TRANSFORMING LEARNING GOES VIRTUAL BY EDUCATORS > FOR EDUCATORS

[Da Vinci Schools](#) has morphed its popular Transforming Learning Conference into a free, fully virtual experience this year. This year's two-day event on Oct. 15 and 16, 2020, will focus on best practices in remote learning, social-emotional learning, and project-based learning in a virtual environment. Check out [this video from last year's Conference](#) to get a sense of the great content created by educators, for educators. Let us know how we did and how we can improve by [taking this survey!](#)

## Event Program

Share your experience on social media: [#TransformingLearning](#)

### Thursday, October 15th, 2020

#### 9:15-9:50 AM PT Welcome Address from Da Vinci Schools CEO, Dr. Matthew Wunder and Agenda Review from Da Vinci Institute Assistant Director, Frank Solis

Hear about Da Vinci Schools' many programs that prepare students for the future through project-based learning and real-world learning. Learn more about the workshops and panels that will be offered at this two-day virtual event.



#### **Dr. Matthew Wunder, Chief Executive Officer, Da Vinci Schools**

Matthew Wunder is the Chief Executive Officer and a Founder of Da Vinci Schools, a charter management organization comprised of four high schools, a K-8 homeschool-hybrid model, and a post-secondary college program serving 2,300 students from 109 zip codes. Da Vinci Schools are known for a deep commitment to developing responsive new school models that incorporate college and career readiness, real world learning aligned to workforce needs, competency-based learning, and innovative industry and higher ed partnerships. In 2017, Da Vinci Schools formally launched Da Vinci RISE High, supported by an XQ 'Super School' prize, to meet the unique needs of youth navigating foster care, housing instability, and other circumstances that have caused disruptions in their academic journeys. Matt believes that greater alignment between K-12 schools, colleges, and employers is needed to ensure students are prepared for postsecondary success and 21st century jobs.



**Frank Solis, Teacher and Assistant Director of Da Vinci Institute, Da Vinci Schools**

Frank is a government and economics teacher at Da Vinci Design. He has taught at Da Vinci Schools since the 2014-15 school year. As the Assistant Director of the Da Vinci Institute, Frank is your host for this two-day virtual event. Da Vinci Institute is a Da Vinci Schools program for adult learners to gain access to our best practices, resources, and training. Da Vinci Institute offers various professional learning opportunities designed to meet the diverse needs of educational groups interested in learning redesign and whole school transformation.

**10:00-11:15 AM PT Industry Partners Panel: The Future of Work**

Hear from industry leaders about how to prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers. Panelists will share insights on changing workforce trends due to COVID-19, best practices in remote work and learning, their organization's partnership with Da Vinci Schools, and tips for how to better prepare students for the future of work.



**Nathan Kim, Principal, Gensler Architecture**

In his role as a Firmwide Education Practice Area Leader and Principal, Nathan combines more than 20+ years of experience with a deep conviction in the power of education and the promise of its global impact. His work includes work with the UC system, the California State University system, Biola University, California Baptist University, the University of Hawaii system, community colleges, K-12 and charter schools. Nathan fosters a collaborative process that leads to design innovation and technical excellence, and combines creative talent and in-depth practical experience to seamlessly bridge all project phases. Nathan has served as a board member for the Asian American Architects/Engineers Association, the Board of Regents for the Da Vinci Schools, and an Advisory Board member on the California Baptist University School of Architecture. Nathan received his Bachelor of Architecture from California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, and has remained involved in design education as an advisor and juror to several local and national programs.



**Dana Commandatore, EVP, Executive Director of Creative Operations, Deutsch**

Dana Commandatore joined Deutsch in 2009 and serves as EVP, Executive Director of Creative and Agency Operations, where she manages teams across creative, design and print services, project management, proofreading and studio.

Dana brings nearly two decades of experience to her role and in her time at Deutsch LA, has diversified the creative department on an international level. In 2009 she transformed the production studio into a fully functioning, G7 Certified pre-press and retouching shop. Since the beginning of 2012, she has brought in more than 200 of the industry's top digital, design, traditional, experiential and social talent.

Her career experience includes work for many high-profile brands, such as Volkswagen, Taco Bell, Levi's, Adidas, Nike, SONY, Johnnie Walker and Axe, among others. Prior to Deutsch, Dana led production services at other top agencies including 180LA, BBH New York, and Wieden+Kennedy New York.



**Charles Bogart, Engineering Resources Program Manager, Boeing**

Charles Bogart is a Project Manager at the Boeing Company, based out of the El Segundo site. He is responsible for facilitating and running the High School Internship Program which hires and develops 70 students each summer, in addition to leading the Technical Fellowship Program which helps recognize the top 1% of Engineers in Boeing Defense Systems.

Charles graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a Bachelor's Degree in Business and received a secondary accounting degree from UCLA. He started his career as a talent agent in the entertainment industry and later transitioned into a project manager role at an advertising agency. It was there that Charles discovered his passion for mentoring others, and managing projects and programs from end-to-end.



**Andrew Daramola, Assistant Principal, Da Vinci Schools**

Andrew Daramola is the Assistant Principal at Da Vinci Communications, transitioning from the classroom where he taught U.S. History and World History. Andrew earned a Masters in Education Administration from USC and brings experience as an instructional coach with Teach for America in Philadelphia as well. Andrew spent eight years as a history teacher in various subjects, and then as Director of Teacher Development at Teach For America – Greater Philadelphia, before moving to Los Angeles in 2017.

**12:15-1:45 PM PT Project-Based Learning in a Virtual Landscape and the Design Process**

It's the day that you were planning to roll out a major project to your students; it's also the same day that schools close indefinitely due to a pandemic. What do you do? You pivot to a virtual project, set up the parameters and requirements, you encourage flexibility and creativity from the students, and you provide support along the way as students prepare to share their projects with classmates, parents, industry professionals, and the world. In this session, we'll do the following: introduce the Da Vinci Design Process; provide samples of several PBL projects that were created completely virtually; create opportunities to practice using project planning templates and protocols. Although all of the projects that will be presented were created in a high school English course, some of them were multidisciplinary, and many of the concepts presented in this session are transferable to any discipline.



**Jason White, Da Vinci Design Teacher**

Jason White started teaching at Da Vinci Design in the fall of 2017, arriving with years of experience teaching, tutoring and coaching students in every grade level from kindergarten through college. He has spent most of his teaching career working as a high school English teacher at several schools including an

alternative high school, a college preparatory magnet high school (his own alma mater), and a large comprehensive high school. For eight years he also taught multiple grade levels and subjects at the K-8 charter school that his own children attended. Jason was really drawn to many of Da Vinci's core practices, including Project Based Learning, Mastery Based Grading and connections with private sector partners, as well as the collaborative, cooperative family atmosphere clearly evident at the school.

## **2:00-2:50 PM PT Da Vinci Administrator Perspectives Panel**

Hear from Da Vinci Schools administrators discuss how they have adapted their respective programs to the new virtual landscape. They will be discussing how we have responded to the challenges of 2020 and how we continue to maintain positive staff culture and serve the needs of our students.



### **Dr. Allegra Johnson, Director of Special Education, Da Vinci Schools**

Dr. Allegra Johnson has been supporting special education students and families at Da Vinci since 2011. First as a Resource Specialist and now as the Director of Special Education, she is committed to providing students with the individualized supports they need to be successful at school. Allegra earned her Master's degree in Special Education at Loyola Marymount University and her doctorate at LMU in Educational Leadership for Social Justice.



### **Steve Wallis, Da Vinci Science Principal**

Steve Wallis is the Principal of Da Vinci Science and a co-founder of Da Vinci Schools. Steve is credentialed in physics, biology and chemistry with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification. He earned his B.S. in Psychobiology from UCLA in 1998, his M.Ed. from UCLA in 1999, and his National Board Certification in chemistry in 2003. He was inspired to teach high school through his volunteer work with Young Life, an organization whose creativity and joy in supporting kids is a model for his work at DVS.



### **Russell Stoll, Da Vinci Design Assistant Principal**

Russell Stoll is the Assistant Principal at Da Vinci Design High School. Russell graduated from UCLA in 2009 with a B.A. in English, emphasis in Creative Writing: Fiction. Russell has been a part of the Da Vinci Schools family since the 2010-2011 school year when he first joined as an academic coach. He is honored to have taught and graduated the first six classes of Seniors from Da Vinci Design as their English teacher. Russell loves contributing to the supportive and creative culture at Design and is excited to support his DV family in developing innovative projects and building strong connections to our community.

# Friday, October 16th, 2020

## 10:00-11:15 AM PT **Building Learner Agency Through Inquiry Learning at Home**

Hear from Rita Bouchard from Da Vinci Connect, Da Vinci Schools hybrid-homeschool program, on how to build agency for students through inquiry learning at home. How can we reflect on our first experience with virtual teaching and reimagine the experience moving forward? Although most of us were thrust into remote teaching overnight, we can move forward with virtual learning that is enjoyable and sustainable for kids, teachers, and parents. In this workshop, you'll learn how to support students to develop agency by tapping into their authentic interests and passions by including them in project development. With a few changes, you can maximize engagement and structure your day for connection, teaching, and reflection.



**Rita Bouchard, Da Vinci Connect Teacher**

Rita Bouchard is a Los Angeles native. She received her BS. in Geology from Cal State Dominguez Hills and was a field geologist for Tyco International for several years before transitioning to teaching. She earned her teaching credential from Cal State University, Los Angeles Charter School of Education and her Masters of Arts in Education with an emphasis in Leadership and Change at Antioch University. She appreciates that she can incorporate her passions into her projects, so DV Connect is a natural fit for her.

## 12:15-1:45 PM PT **Facilitating Speech and Language Development During Virtual Learning: Re-imagining supports for all levels of need**

The transition to distance learning altered the methods and mediums through which students can communicate with one another and their teachers. Many students with communication deficits are at high risk for regression during this time of pandemic. In this workshop, attendees will learn how a school-based Speech Language Pathologist attempted not only to prevent regression, but to foster development and continued progress for students at all levels of need. Time for questions, discussion, and reflection will be included during the workshop.



**Anne Tittle, Speech and Language Pathologist**

Anne earned her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and teaching credential from University of Hawaii. She taught middle and high school English for 11 years before earning a clinical master's degree to become a speech language pathologist. In addition to working with students at Da Vinci schools, Anne is also the SLP on the cleft palate team at Los Angeles Orthopaedic Institute. Anne is an ASHA certified SLP, and has also been a presenter at national conferences. In addition to her 20 years of experience working in schools, Anne has extensive training and experience working with students with autism, learning disabilities, and motor speech disorders.