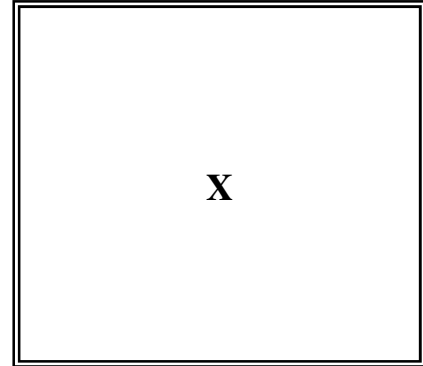


Look at the picture on the right. What do you see?

Is your focus on the ‘X’?  
...Or on the expanse of potential that surrounds it?

What if our communities could change the focus to the expanse of potential in our youth and schools?

**Positive Change Corps** is on a mission to do just that.



We are a global community of educators, parents, teachers, students, business people and community leaders who began to work together in 2001. We realized that in schools, communities and government, so much time has been spent focusing on the ‘X’ - on our potential flaws – that we had lost sight of the big picture.

As we shine light on the *whole* picture, we are able to see beyond the flaws and problems. We recognize and celebrate the good work being done in schools and youth programs. We discover the best of what is and collectively envision and construct what can be done. We have found that in turning to one another and sharing our successes we are able to catalyze positive change by (re-) discovering our strengths and new possibilities.

**Now it is your turn! How could you join in?**

Typically, we begin with a 2-day conversation called a ‘Leap of Learning’ (LOL) to ignite leadership and positive change. We work with you to bring the ‘whole’ back into focus, to name, develop, share and foster your school community’s “positive core” of assets, strengths, values -- and imagine and architect new ones!



James Jeter, Marge Schiller, Holly Wright, and Young Jin Park at the Georgian Court LOL, August 2005

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For more information please contact Dawn Cooperrider Dole, (+1) 440-338-6733, [info@taosinstitute.net](mailto:info@taosinstitute.net) or Dr. Marjorie Schiller, (+1) 781-749-4373, [margeschiller@yahoo.com](mailto:margeschiller@yahoo.com)

# Host a Leap of Learning

## *Connect + Ignite + Architect → Transform*

Three LOL events have occurred in the United States and Europe, with at least four more planned for 2005-2006.

We offer this invitation to partner with you to run a LOL in your area.

### What a Leap of Learning (LOL) Can Accomplish

- ◆ Facilitates a powerful, positive dialogue among members of schools and youth groups with teachers, parents, students, community and business people.
- ◆ Creates a “container” of expertise and space to catapult the positive core into sharper focus within two short days.
- ◆ Establishes a relationship network that can become a springboard for innovation.
- ◆ Builds new skills for imagining and co-creating the future that will be!
- ◆ Initiates the transformation you want to see in your community.

### What You Will Learn/Gain from Attending

- ◆ Approaches and skills in strength-based methods for leadership and change -- including Appreciative Inquiry
- ◆ Stronger connections across the community of colleagues, students, parents, teachers, government, businesses – their skills, needs and strengths
- ◆ Recognition and acknowledgement of your own skills and assets
- ◆ Ways to share knowledge and develop staff
- ◆ Opportunities to learn about applications of Appreciative Inquiry to your own life and work

### A Typical Schedule

<b>Day One: <i>Connect and Ignite</i></b>	<b>Day Two: <i>Architect and Transform</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Connect With Each Other</li> <li>◆ Begin the Strength-Based Whole System Approach to Change – An Appreciative Inquiry Cycle</li> <li>◆ Discover assets and peak experiences</li> <li>◆ Dream a possible future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Design principles and plans</li> <li>◆ Destiny – Sustaining the momentum</li> <li>◆ Commitments – personal, community and beyond</li> </ul>
Optional Session: <i>Learning about the Strength-Based Whole Systems (SBWS) Approach to Change</i>	Optional Session: <i>How to bring SBWS home</i>

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# Essential Ingredients Checklist

- ✓ **Maximum Mix:** LOLs work best when they include a maximum mix of key educational stakeholders interested in the future of their schools and communities: students, parents, teachers, administrators, elected officials, and community members.
- ✓ **Visual Recording/other visual art:** Including artistic expression that moves beyond words -- such as graphic recording, photography and music -- brings out the “whole.”
- ✓ **Storytelling:** Use extensive narrative telling of stories -- stories of lives and experiences brought to the LOL, emerging stories and the collective story of the LOL event – to create understanding, connection, and learning.
- ✓ **Questions:** LOLs are structured around positive questions and an understanding of the power of questions for collective, shared meaning making across boundaries. Positive change starts with new conversations.
- ✓ **Dialogue:** Spend much more time on conversation instead of presentation to fire up engagement and relationships.
- ✓ **Post Conversation Strategy:** Include plans that encourage participants’ ability to connect and support each other’s work after the event.
- ✓ **Accessibility for All:** Set a price point that encourages participation. Make scholarships available when needed.
- ✓ **Exploration of Partnerships:** We work with like-minded groups to co-sponsor and co-construct the conversations.
- ✓ **Conversations with those who have planned and attended past LOL’s:** Connect with others to learn what worked best in the previous Leaps of Learning. Our goal is to elevate and extend your successes.
- ✓ **Deeper Learning/Meta-Conversations:** Consider including time in the schedule (evenings or after the event) for further learning about Appreciative Inquiry principles with skilled practitioners.
- ✓ **eValuate:** After the session, plan for an exploration of lessons learned. What was best to take forward, and what would you wish for in the next LOL?
- ✓ **Sharing Contact Details:** We find that relationships are the engine for transformational leadership and change. One of the most powerful results of a Leap of Learning is the emergence of deeper personal connections and community-wide relationship networks. Our work with you facilitates relationships in the short term, and we provide the ways to connect and the space for what will happen after the two-day dialogue concludes.
- ✓ **Reporting:** A report, video, graphic recording or other summary is useful to help participants and sponsors refuel and spread the energy of the LOL experience.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

Sample budget items to consider:

Item	Cost (\$)
Venue	Donated space is ideal
Facilitation for Seminars	PCC facilitators are available
Catering	
Evaluation and Administration	
Printing Conference Materials	
Advertising	
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$</b>

**What is the estimated number of attendees needed to cover costs?**

*The number of participants has ranged from 40-120. We think that 80-100 is ideal. We recommend a reduced rate or scholarship for students.*

**Who might co-sponsor a Leap of Learning with us?**

*Co-sponsors have been universities and businesses to date, but schools, school systems, labor organizations, youth organizations, and foundations are additional possibilities.*

**What venue might be attractive and accessible to the maximum mix of stakeholders?**

*Universities and schools are often ideal because of mission and location, and usually include accessible parking and food service facilities.*

## Will YOU choose to host a LEAP OF LEARNING? We encourage you to consider it!

To hear what participants are saying about their experience at a LOL please read on...

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## Just some of the feedback from LOL participants

"I enjoyed the camaraderie, the opportunity to dialogue with the students, the great information about Heathside and the experiences of the Cleveland schools. It was great to see such a diverse group of participants who brought value to LOL. It was an experience of accomplishments, joy and hope for the future."

"This was a fantastic opportunity to link up with others involved with AI and strengths-based approaches to change - to be in a room together and sharing dialogue with so many others on the same wavelength as I am was just wonderful!"

"I was most inspired by the kids present in the room - I was awed by their confidence that we are not forgetting them or leaving them behind and that we are listening to them. I had three young men at my table who were grateful to see that adults did care to hear what they had to say."

"I was INSPIRED by the models presented from Cleveland and England. Not only did it make sense to me in writing, but there was EVIDENCE of AI working in schools!"

"The best part of the gathering was hearing the stories from various locations about the powerful changes made using the AI approach. I was also inspired by the people I met, their passion, commitment and generosity of spirit in sharing their experiences and expertise."

"The passion that emerged during the small group discussions and was later shared by the whole conference during the presentation stage was amazing."

"My hope in coming to this Leap of Learning was to spur a movement that would gather energy and excitement for working with youth and schools in appreciative, strength-based methods and to generate the connections and stories to have that movement move forward. And, my hope was realized here."

## Looking forward to LEAPING TOGETHER!

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