

## Winter Institute 2024 – The Athenian School: Danville, California

The 19th annual Winter Institute, hosted by The Athenian School, was a collective transformative experience. The four-day event left participants feeling whole, seen, and inspired. Attendees' testimonials expressed how the Institute surpassed their expectations and continues to be one of the top PD experiences. The Institute theme, "**Rooted in Experiential Education: Finding Our Places to Flourish**" underscored the importance of belonging as a cornerstone of experiential learning, fostering an environment where diverse individuals thrive through respect and dialogue. The Winter Institute consistently creates intentional connections and joy.

- ▶ 161 Attendees
- ▶ 13 Ex Ed in Action Workshops
- ▶ 5 Sponsors
- ▶ 16 Homerooms
- ▶ 3 Identity Affinity Groups
- ▶ 17 Model Programs & Practice Presentations
- ▶ 10 Professional Affinity Groups
- ▶ 2 Keynote Speakers



**100%**

of attendees stated they **enjoyed** themselves

**100%**

had an overall **positive networking experience**

**91%**

gained **concrete experiential education** ideas to apply in their schools

“ The power of being in a room of like-minded adults, who all find value in ExED and are actively looking for ways to create more opportunity for Ex Ed in our classrooms was very special to be a part of. Everyone at the Institute was interested in continuing to learn from each other and our unique experiences, which made conversations in and out of the classroom, very meaningful.”

“ The flow of the Institute felt really purposeful/meaningful in the way that ideas are developed and shared. Someone described it as “inspiration” followed by “application.”

“ By far one of the best! The work is really feeling more integrated and authentic.”

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP:** Membership renewal notices will be going out in May and June for the 2024 - 2025 academic year. Membership runs from July 1 - June 30. Leadership Circle membership opportunities are open to all schools!

## Looking Forward:

### ISEEN IN THE FUTURE

**New programs** – We submitted a grant to develop an Institute for Experiential Education Integration to inspire educational leaders to fully integrate experiential education into the core of schools.

**20th Anniversary** – We will be celebrating twenty years of ISEEN in 2025!

**New Look**, New Website to distinctly convey our dedication to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

#### CUSTOM TRAINING & CONSULTING

ISEEN offers training and consulting services tailored to your unique needs. Our team, along with a wide network of skilled facilitators, provides support for experiential education curricula and programs. ISEEN's consulting expertise covers ethical global and social justice programs, development of semester-long interdisciplinary courses, immersive programs best practices, and beyond. We invite you to reach out to discuss potential opportunities for your school.



“ ISEEN coached us on Experiential Education and DEI practices. They helped us identify gaps which taught us how to improve our programs. I have loved every moment that I've gotten to work with ISEEN and hope to continue a partnership with them for years to come. The faculty have truly grown professionally thanks to ISEEN's coaching!” Ashley Lauderdale, 10th Grade Level Coordinator, Emery-Weiner School

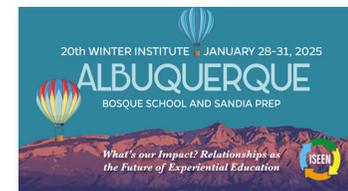
## SAVE THE DATES

**SUMMER INSTITUTE 2024 – COLORADO**  
**Experiential Education Pedagogy & Practice**

SESSION 1: **June 20 - 24, 2024**  
SESSION 2: **June 25 - 29, 2024**  
Hosted by the Dawson School | Lafayette, CO  
**Register now!**

**WINTER INSTITUTE 2025 – NEW MEXICO**  
**What's our Impact? Relationships as the Future of Experiential Education**

**January 28-31, 2025**  
Hosted by Bosque School and Sandia Prep  
**Priority Registration opens in August 2024.**



## GRATITUDE

We thank you, our members, for being a part of this journey with ISEEN. We are here because of you - and we look forward to building the future together.



iseeninfo.com



Independent Schools Experiential Education Network



# Impact Report

APRIL 2023 – APRIL 2024



## ISEEN Online Professional Learning



ISEEN Online supports a dynamic community where educators and school leaders converge to shape the future of learning. This virtual hub serves as a space of partnership and growth, offering a year-round connection that bridges the gap between in-person events. The heart of ISEEN Online lies in its **Professional Affinity Groups**, where monthly cohorts, guided by seasoned facilitators, exchange knowledge and resources to enrich student learning, ranging from experiential global education, community engagement for social justice to environmental sustainability.

### Coaching Pods

We successfully launched an innovative pilot program for educators to enhance their leadership skills and broaden their professional toolkits through group coaching pods.

### Regional Expeditions – October 10, 2023, and May 10, 2024

Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island, BC, hosted a Fall Regional Expedition. This professional development day brought together experiential educators to create community in and around the Pacific Northwest. In May, Coast Mountain Academy, in Squamish, BC, is hosting a Spring Regional Expedition exploring "Student Decision Making in Experiential Learning".



### Summer Institute 2023 – Dawson School: Lafayette, Colorado

Teachers from disciplines spanning Math, Science, History, World Languages, Social Studies, English, and Elementary Education, engaged in four days of energetic collaboration. Educators worked to refine and enhance their teaching methods, making them more impactful for their students. The Advanced Practitioners cohort delved into immersive learning experiences and Ex Ed project periods making a comeback this year, alongside the exciting new Makerspace Pedagogy cohort.

**72**  
EDUCATORS

**7**  
COHORTS

“ It was nice to have the space, time, and guidance to plan out a lesson, get feedback from facilitators and peers. I loved being able to share resources, fun activities that got us out of our seats to still review and get through content and goals. It was nice to go on a field trip and listen to another school who is actually doing experiential learning.”

“ Experiential education is nothing new, but this ISEEN Institute helped me see that it might very well be the way of the future: As we adapt to a world where facts and even analysis is better performed by computers and artificial intelligence, we should be thinking carefully about what education should look like. Experiential education teaches us how to learn from unfamiliar, uncomfortable situations and take that knowledge to tackle new problems”

“ This was such a fun, inspiring, and useful PD and I am so glad I came. It was thoughtfully planned, and our facilitator was absolutely amazing! Everything was modeled well, and we were all constantly coming up with new ideas together. What a gift!”

# ISEEN Independent Schools Experiential Education Network

For nearly twenty years, ISEEN has led, informed, connected, expanded, and stewarded transformational experiential teaching and learning throughout an interconnected world. A pioneering model that started in 2005 with a Winter Institute founded by five independent schools has allowed the organization to thrive, growing to over 140 member schools and organizations in 2024. At the cutting edge of deep learning, meaningful, and authentic educational practices that foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, ISEEN's role in supporting thousands of educators in driving change is evident in the increasing number of schools that have immersive project periods, the growing number of schools that have a Director of Experiential Education, as well as recognition in NAIS' Independent School Magazine in 2013 and 2023.

## The Numbers

**75,891**  
Students in ISEEN Member Schools

**12,760**  
Educators at ISEEN Member Schools

**161**  
Experiential Educators attended the 19th Annual Winter Institute

**143**  
Member schools and organizations

**74**  
Virtual Community Sessions

**53**  
Educators connected in monthly online Professional Affinity Groups

**16**  
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE SCHOOLS

