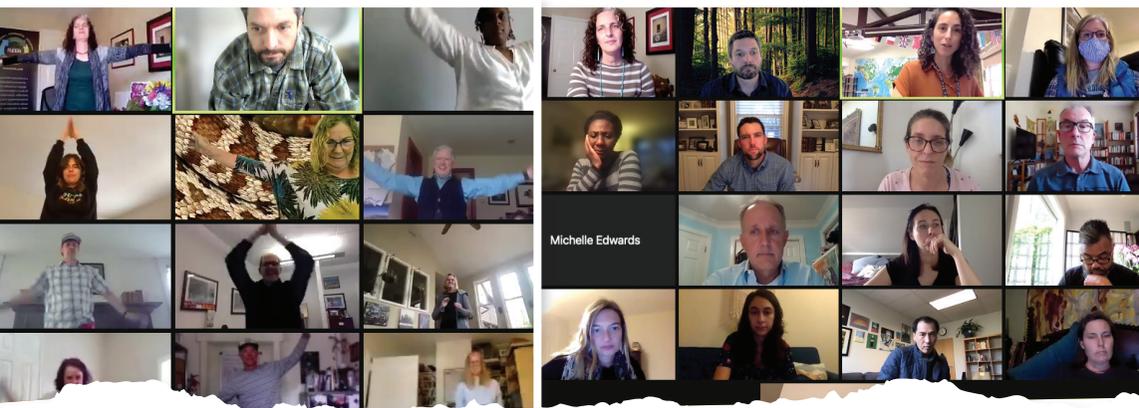


April 2021 - Virtual Winter Institute

Last spring, when many of us were still at home and practicing social distancing measures, ISEEN created an opportunity for our experiential educators to meet the needs of our time. We pivoted to make our annual gathering an online experience that was useful and engaging. The theme **Reflection, Reckoning and Rebirth: Inspiring Change Amidst Global Crises** allowed us to deeply grapple with the question: "How can we claim this moment to deconstruct, re-envision, and rebirth a new future for transformative education and social justice work so that we – and our students - participate in the emergence of a world that aligns with our highest values?"

- ▶ **NUMBERS**- 140 attendees, 36 presenters at the Virtual Winter Institute
- ▶ **SPEAKERS**- the online environment gave us the opportunity to create an amazing speaker line-up, in part because there was no travel needed. This has sparked additional possibilities for future engagement with extraordinary people.
- ▶ **WORKSHOPS** - 18 Experiential Education in Action workshops explored various threads:
 - Empowering Student Leadership
 - Environmental Justice & Sustainability
 - Experiential Education in the Classroom
 - Global Education & Engagement Amidst COVID-19
 - Risk Management / Travel / Outdoor Education
 - Social-Emotional Well Being
 - Social Justice / Anti-Racist Work



“ ISEEN has “pivoted” superbly during the pandemic and continued to provide professional development and networking opportunities that keep us all connected and learning with and from one another. ISEEN could have folded or gone dormant, but the hole it would have left in our lives would have been tremendous. Experiential educators around the world rely on this network to keep their skills sharp and enhance their knowledge of all disciplines. Thank you, ISEEN, for keeping the flame alive when we need you most!”

Looking Forward:

ISEEN IN THE FUTURE

CUSTOM TRAINING/CONSULTING We have been delivering custom training workshops and consulting with several schools from Texas to Northeast Connecticut this year. Each training is unique to the school, and we are still developing new offerings. Initial responses are positive and more schools are inviting us to work with their faculty or to help create/refine experiential programs. We invite you to reach out to discuss potential opportunities for your school.

- “ ISEEN not only taught our faculty innovative ideas and concepts around experiential education, but they also modeled them throughout the workshop, so that we were able to see best practices in action.” Kristine Cigdemoglu, Director of Experiential Education, The Awty International School
- “ ISEEN led a targeted workshop to prepare the chaperones for our 10th grade social justice trip, leading them through best practices for full engagement, reflection, and reorientation. The facilitators were knowledgeable, prepared, modeled the concepts for our team, and worked closely with us to tailor the training to our group’s specific needs. Most importantly, they set the tone for educational travel as a serious field of academic work, which is what we needed.” Casey Fleming, Director of Experiential Education, The Emery/Weiner School

We also look forward to seeing you at our scheduled programs. Put them on your calendar and look for emails about registration!

SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE 2022 – DC
Experiential Education Pedagogy & Practice
June 15–19, 2022

Hosted By Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia
Register now!

WINTER INSTITUTE 2023 – NC
Empowered Ex Ed: Sustained Partnerships & Student Leadership
January 17-20, 2023

Hosted by Cary Academy in Cary, North Carolina
Registration opens August 1, 2022.



Gratitude

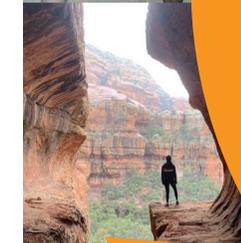
We **THANK YOU**, our members for being a part of this journey with ISEEN. We are here because of you and we look forward to building the future together.



iseeninfo.com



Independent Schools Experiential Education Network



Looking Back AND Looking Forward: IMPACT REPORT

APRIL 2021 – APRIL 2022





ISEEN *Independent Schools* *Experiential Education Network*

If there was one thing we learned during the pandemic, it is the value of providing a space for Experiential Educators to have the opportunity to exchange ideas, process the changes that COVID has brought to our discipline, and rejoice in the company of the extraordinary individuals who make up the ISEEN community. We recognize that this makes ISEEN more important than ever, even in challenging times. In this past year, ISEEN has embraced its mission and continued to create spaces for educators to learn together with an organization that strives to be diverse, inclusive, and equitable that prioritizes social justice in all areas of work.

Member Numbers



128
member schools
and organizations
= **1,100 total**
people in the ISEEN
Network



DC Regional Gathering

In May 2021, as we slowly started to emerge from lock downs (thanks to vaccines and warmer weather), a small but mighty group of ISEENers gathered in Washington, DC's Rock Creek Park to remind ourselves of the importance of in-person interaction and collaboration.



Summer Institute 2021 - Santa Fe

After a hiatus in 2020, we returned to Santa Fe Prep in August of 2021 for an intimate and reaffirming Summer Teachers Institute. Classroom teachers divided into subject area cohorts (Math, Science, History, World Languages, Social Studies, English and Elementary Education) and spent four intense days together collaborating to make their own and each other's pedagogies more meaningful for their students.



“The warmth, openness and generosity of colleagues was incredible! I did find the protocol activity in my cohort tremendously helpful for receiving constructive feedback on my lesson plan.”

“This was by far one of the most enriching and productive collaborative experiences I have had as a teacher. I have returned home with renewed passion for my subject and concrete ideas and activities to improve my practice.”

Winter Institute 2022 - Sedona

We thought long and hard about the much-delayed Sedona Winter Institute amidst the winter Omicron surge. However, with a strong commitment from the ISEEN community, and our host, the Verde Valley School, we held our first in-person Winter Institute in two years. It was nothing short of amazing to be in a gorgeous outdoor location, connect with new and old colleagues, and be open to delving deeply into the DEI/Social Justice theme of **Belonging to Our Place: Stewardship, Well-Being, and Heritage**.

▶ **100%** of attendees said they enjoyed their experience

“My experience at ISEEN instilled wonder, pride and reflection in the work we do in education. I found affinity with people who are seeking ways to build community and steward our places.”

ISEEN Online Professional Learning

136 Educators and educational service providers participated in ISEEN Online Professional Learning Programs.

We found that meeting on Zoom is a great way to keep the community together in between the Winter and Summer Institutes.

Professional Affinity Groups-PAGs, as we affectionately call them, successfully connect **94** educators with peer support and advice in a warm, collaborative environment.

Virtual Summer Institute- In June 2021 we held the Virtual Summer Institute with an intimate group of teachers who honed their experiential lesson plans, experienced the Kolb Cycle, and received one-to-one coaching and feedback.

WEBINARS- Topics included:

- ▶ Return to Travel – Considerations for 2022 and Beyond
- ▶ Education for Sustainability: Holistic Systems Thinking for the Future We Want
- ▶ Diversity in the Outdoors- So What/ Now What?-Going from Discussion to Action!
- ▶ Community Partnerships with a Lens of Reciprocity, Dialogue and Justice

DEI BOOK CLUB READINGS:

- ▶ *There There* by Tommy Orange
- ▶ *At Home on the Earth: Becoming Native to Our Place Multicultural Anthology* Edited by David Landis Barnhill
- ▶ *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson

“My experience at ISEEN was something I couldn't imagine. I was overcome with feelings of belonging as we shared stories about the places we came from and reflected on the path we're on. The most impactful moment I experienced while at ISEEN happened as I was sitting in the science classroom. I became excited to learn. This must be what my students feel when we do experiments in class. What a wonderful feeling to truly be curious!”

“Attending the ISEEN Winter Institute invigorated me with a mid-year burst of enthusiasm and inspiration. Learning and collaborating with so many positive and like-minded professionals helped me past the January-blahs. I returned to school excited with many ideas and practices to help increase experiential education on my campus. The professional affinity groups and networking opportunities allowed me to reflect on my own practices and practical ways to improve overall program outcomes.”

