ACTIVATING THE POWER
OF STUDENTS, SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES

#WEAREACTIVISTS
At Big Picture Learning, it is our vision that all students live happy and successful lives of their own design — in their education, careers and civic experiences — supported by learner-centered communities, caring mentors, strong inter-personal relationships and equitable opportunities to achieve their greatest potential.

In this sense, we are activists.
Educators across the country and around the world are increasingly recognizing the power that comes when students forge their own paths through learning. What was once considered an alternative movement in education is becoming mainstream. Today, over 75 BPL network schools exist in 29 states around the country, with another 100+ around the world. Our new Affinity and Upstream Collaborative cohorts — situated in areas where we can make the greatest impact — are designed explicitly to create communities of practitioners who are passionately engaged in redesigning education with equity and student success at its heart.

But as we move forward — together — we aim to ensure that those joining the movement anew don't forget the lesson which has been central to all successful education movements past: relationships matter.

15 new schools will join the BPL network over the next three years as part of the Affinity Cohort, bringing our network to over 75 schools in the US and another 100+ around the world (in places like India, the Netherlands, Kazakhstan, and more).
Big Picture’s school and district leaders are among the most passionate and dedicated educators impacting the lives of students today, at once a community of teachers and a community of learners. But they — and we — can always get better. Our professional development opportunities — whether delivered online via Learning Big Picture or in-person at our annual conferences — are, like our schools, explicitly designed with a personal touch, with opportunities to learn from national staff, network colleagues from across the country and — naturally — students.

Whether it’s through videos, classroom resources, shared research or community excursions, Big Picture’s lifelong learning opportunities not only increase thinking, but push thinking. Our work starts in the classroom but it ends when we have addressed the complex systemic issues that impact education at large.

learning big picture supports the development of a common language around our work with students & families, which is important as we reshape our students’ educational experience.

carrie duff, school leader
Big Picture Learning has long been recognized as a leader in facilitating interest-based internships. But creating these kinds of hands-on, deeper learning experiences at scale can be extremely challenging. Enter ImBlaze, our mobile internship management platform that not only accelerates place-based learning on demand, but does so while addressing prevalent opportunity gaps that inhibit students from building necessary social capital.

Relocating learning to immersive, community-based environments, where authentic real-world learning is deeply intertwined with knowledge acquisition, represents the fulfillment of Big Picture’s Leaving to Learn philosophy. The technology has finally caught up in a way that makes this vision accessible to any school or any student who wants to take the next step.

since its inception, ImBlaze has helped students document over 70,000 days in which they were in the real world, pursuing their interests, working with adult mentors, and developing their professional network.

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**by the numbers**

70k

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**in the news**

want to offer internships at your school? a tool to make it easier | Katrina Schwartz | KQED/Mindshift | October 22, 2018

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At Big Picture Learning, we work to provide all students with a strong sense of identity, confidence, and purpose — no matter their path. In this vein, we have recently launched the Harbor Freight Fellowship, designed to connect students to a larger community of practice through which they may develop critical networks for building social, professional and economic capital.

This message is supported by Navigating Our Way, a public service campaign we’ve launched committed to shifting how society values career and technical education and the skilled trades. We are not alone. We are excited by a growing movement among kindred spirits, makers, and craftspersons who are pushing for more creative and effective models of learning for students looking to pursue their own interests, whatever they may be.

89 percent of harbor freight fellows report feeling more closely connected to their local community of professionals.
At Big Picture Learning, it is our vision that all students live successful lives of their own design, supported by equitable opportunities to achieve their greatest potential. Through partnerships designed to identify emerging equity warriors, to bring college to those who have experienced barriers, to give urban youth their first taste of social capital; we are amplifying proven best practices that drive systems changes for every learner. But most critically for those underrepresented.

To achieve this, we need to be agile. To lead with a definition of personalization that starts with person. We adhere to a philosophy in which the educational needs of a nation can be accomplished — yes — one student at a time. But also one paradigm shift at a time.

at big picture learning, we look for places to create a wake for voices that don’t always get the spotlight. the simple act of stepping aside can have an extraordinary impact.

you heard it here:
carlos moreno, co-executive director

PROVIDENCE-BASED COLLEGE UNBOUND HELPS MINORITY, LOW-INCOME STUDENTS EARN DEGREES

jim hummel
the providence journal
november 9, 2018
At Big Picture Learning, we serve all who possess an infallible spirit for learning, truth and equity — especially in an era of adversity and marginalization. We foster learning spaces which create the wake in which students can freely, and with courage, pursue their passions and interests. From these spaces have emerged teachers, architects, policy-makers, fashion designers, astrophysicists, filmmakers, musicians, future world leaders and more. From these spaces have emerged second families, made up of peers of diverse genders, races, religions, economic classes and sexual orientations. We stand for unbridled, fearless, curiosity.

We activate the power of schools, systems and education through student-directed, real-world learning. We are activists.