



NEW YORK, NY , April 27, 2020 - On April 15<sup>th</sup> women working in or supporting preK-12 education met virtually for the initial convening of SheLeadsEdu. The brainchild of five women leaders, the initiative has been in development with the encouragement of Pam Moran, retired Superintendent and educational leader of Virginia.

“Five years ago, I bought the SheLeadsEdu domain. I did so with the dream of creating a safe space for women in educational leadership. I had just come out of a space that didn’t feel so safe and I wanted to create a common ground for women to celebrate and learn from one another. Five years later I have found a group of women that share this vision and together we have ignited a movement.” said Missy Emler, CEO of Modern Learners.

Education has always been a female dominated field in terms of male/female ratios of actual employees. However, there are still far too few women serving as school, district, business and state leaders when it comes to education. While there are networks for women in various fields, there is no global network for women in education that provides them with the voice, connections and support they need and deserve.

SheLeadsEdu aspires to become the movement that gives voice to innovation in preK-12 and the women who often drive that innovation. According to the website, the initiative will provide convenings (face to face and online), a directory of women contributors in education, access to a private community and more. Initial founders (or hell-raisers, as they are referred to on the group’s website) include Missy Emler of Wisconsin, Jody Britten of Indiana, Pam Moran and Shameka Gerard both of Virginia, and Katie McFarland and Lisa Yokana both of New York. Each of these women has worked in education, with a combined contribution of more than 125 years of service.

“Far too often I see women in education without access to cheerleaders of their work, we get caught up in the competition and fear rather than embracing that none of us is as strong as all of us,” said Dr. Jody Britten, founder of the Early Learning Alliance Network and Senior Associate at Metiri Group, “The voice of these women is not only important for this time and climate in education it is in fact essential to the future and wellbeing of the industry. It is time to amplify and connect the voices that are typically one-off, isolated, and ignored.”

As the group facilitated an online convening on April 15th, Twitter lit up with acknowledgements of appreciation and support for the initiative. With Moran making the call to understand that we are all better together, the convening was called “refreshing and inspiring” by participants reflecting that “our future looks so bright because we are leading this change.”

“Immediately following the convening, I received a message from one participant saying thank you and sharing that after they logged-off they just started to cry, feeling as if they have been waiting for this space for women,” said Pam Moran former superintendent, author of Timeless Learning, and principal at Moran & Socol.

The work of SheLeadsEdu will continue to unfold over the coming years. To get involved and participate in future convenings, visit [www.sheleadsedu.com](http://www.sheleadsedu.com).

#### **About SheLeadsEdu ([www.sheleadsedu.com](http://www.sheleadsedu.com))**

SheLeadsEdu is a grassroots startup that actively supports women in education. The organization focuses its efforts on empowering, supporting, and connecting women in education (regardless of their role). Through private funding, SheLeadsEdu has created a virtual space where over 6,000 women in education are already actively connecting.

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