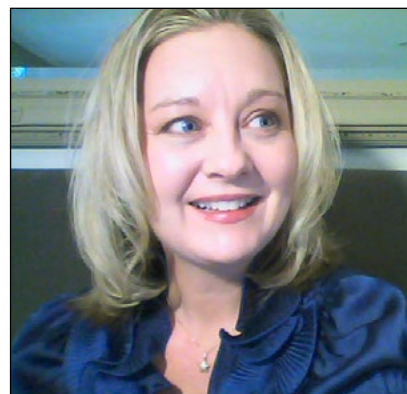# Point of View

The idea for a Digital Curriculum Transition Model Architecture came about organically, springing to life from the dozens of events we've been producing. We've surveyed, we've interviewed, we've spoken to tons of school executives and what could not be clearer is the soul-wrenching, grasping need for coherent direction almost everywhere. With more than 7,000 digital curriculum and content publishers now just in the U.S. K-12 market space, and nearly 75% of all students having computing devices for a significant portion or all of the school day, we are in a whirlwind of change.

Last November we brought together 50-some senior education leaders from dozens of schools into New Orleans for our special national "Gathering" event. Mid-day we rolled out 72 pounds of Mega Bloks. We gave a small sketch of what a model architecture might be like and let each table of 4-8 people "have at it" building their own and labeling each block.

Some tables looked flummoxed, either silent or in heated conversations, waving fists of blocks in the air and making loud points about what should go in what order of strategy. Adults fell to fits of giggles as they hefted the blocks. Each individual did their own building-and-labeling at one table.

At the end of the exercise the whole group visited each other's tables to hear about the strategy constructs. One built their Mega Blok strategy to "resemble a whole child" and labeled all the parts to show how their strategy was considering real learning. Another used a cantilevered block and labeled that the "pumping station" for the probability that as the strategy went forward they would have to "pump out the baloney" coming from various factions, just like the pumping stations there in New Orleans are always in operation else the city sinks into the sea-water that surrounds it. Superintendent Mary Ellis enthusiastically showed how complete her table's strategy was considered, having been the only table to talk-through what they would do and then trigger frantic activity to do their build-and-label in the final moments. Others had the entire group in uproarious laughter. We all learned from the blocks and were surprisingly proud of each other.

We transformed into a purposeful group in that exercise, built up a camaraderie of shared pain, observations, and hopes for change. People new to me at this event gave me giant bear hugs of gratitude before leaving. We had all bonded.

I wanted to spread the love and send you this compendium of strategies and discussion. Enjoy!

LeiLani Cauthen, CEO & Publisher

Model Architecture in Action

November 2014
National Gathering
New Orleans, LA

Above: Mark McKinney, Accounts Manager, Bright Bytes/ LeiLani Cauthen: CEO, the Learning Counsel/ Mark Walls, Director of Instructional Solutions, Gwinnett County Schools, Georgia

Left: Dr. Mike Webb, Deputy Superintendent/ Dr. Mary Ellis, Superintendent, Union County Public Schools, North Carolina

Above: Tonia Smith, Project Director, Clarendon School District Two, South Carolina/ Cleon Franklin, Shelby Public Schools, Tennessee/ Dr. Richard Murphy, Technology Innovation Specialist, Alabama Learning Exchange, Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama

Above: Anne Boothe, Director, Academic Services and Personalized Learning, Houston Independent School District, Texas

Above: Jamey Hynds, Director, Business Intelligence, Katy School District, Texas

Education Executives at the Learning Counsel National Gathering in New Orleans build their strategic architecture for digital curriculum implementation in Mega Bloks. One and all got a three-dimensional look at what they were doing to transform their districts and schools. It was educational for the educators—opening eyes to workable strategy and renewed purpose. And some great bonding, too!