



Foreword

To prepare students for their world of work tomorrow, we must transform their learning today.

As the world continues to evolve at an exponential pace, educators have the arduous task of preparing learners with the competencies to excel even though we cannot predict with certain accuracy the jobs that will exist. With artificial intelligence, automation, and advanced robotics becoming more embedded in society, action must be taken in our schools now. This might seem like a lofty challenge, but the solution is easier than you might think. The key to future-proofing education lies in the ability of schools to empower all learners to think through deeper learning. Doing so requires a paradigm shift that can be explained in two sentences: Don't prepare kids for something. Prepare them for anything!

The premise of deeper learning is that through hands-on, real-world experiences, students can effectively master rigorous academic content, improve communication, and enhance problem-solving and collaboration skills. It is great to see a book that provides us with a practical framework for redesigning learning experiences. Its architectural metaphor for design embraces the ideals of both the art and the science of teaching. It speaks to the need to be clear about learning outcomes and intentional with instructional design to achieve deeper learning for the students we serve, regardless of zip code.

Much of the work that I have advocated for in digital leadership and learning involves the need to put pedagogy first and technology second. Pedagogy trumps technology . . . period. If we don't have clarity around the learning goals and a focus on improving instructional design, the digital tools overshadow the real learning. We must step back and reflect on why student outcomes and achievement have not taken a quantum leap

forward. What Lissa provides us with is a framework for student-centered learning that must be our first priority.

Teachers as learning architects is a brilliant concept. Designing learning experiences that prepare our students for the future aligns with the work of ICLE as a national partner of Future Ready Schools (FRS). We align our digital learning practices with the seven key areas of the Future Ready Schools Framework—one being curriculum, instruction, and assessment (CIA). *Architects of Deeper Learning* (AODL) captures the foundational components of CIA and makes what can sometimes seem very complex into a simple design model that all teachers can embrace. We all know that to be globally competitive, students must be given the opportunity to exercise more agency and ownership over their learning. This can only be accomplished through intentional design—a blueprint for building learning environments based on rigor, relevance, and learner engagement.

At the core of AODL are the four parts of the Blueprint for Deeper Learning. These four parts provide the structure for learning design and are supported by the Rigor/Relevance Framework[®]. Gaining an understanding of the required level of cognitive process—student thinking—as well as the required level of cognitive demand—student working—is a critical outcome of developing a foundation for learning and design. Framing a real-world problem that requires students to research, collaborate, and create innovative solutions helps to both personalize the learning and to cultivate skills students need to be successful in the future. Constructing knowledge provides the details around the instructional process and the authentic tools and resources that can be used to ensure student success on performance tasks. Finally, the emphasis on assessment and feedback for learning cannot be understated. Empowering students to own their learning, and their results, is a powerful practice that has a big return on investment. The ultimate goal of deeper learning is for students to be able to transfer what they are learning in school to real-world problems, while becoming more engaged, confident, and self-directed as a result of the experience.

We all know *what* we have to do, it's *how* to do it that sometimes evades us. *Architects of Deeper Learning*, based on eight evidence-based design principles, is the how-to of instructional design. Provided within the book and the online materials are tools and resources that will help focus your instructional planning and, once implemented, will inevitably accelerate student learning. Lissa has also provided blueprint options for Math, Science/STEM, Social Studies, and Design Thinking/CTE, giving educators the ability to personalize instructional design while maintaining the four parts of the design process. Learning must be REAL—relevant, engaging, authentic, and lasting—for all students. It must motivate students to persevere when tasks are difficult. Students need to be challenged to solve complex problems and think outside the box to innovate and create solutions to real-world problems. The lessons that are memorable for our students are the ones that we also love to teach. We can have both. We need to think differently about how we do school.

Deeper learning must not be our moonshot in education. Deeper learning must be what every student is provided the opportunity to experience. There are no excuses. All kids have greatness inside them. It is the job of an educator to help them find and unleash it. Lissa has provided us, as architects of deeper learning, with a framework to design compelling learning experiences for students. Let's prepare them not only for their future but also for anything! Let's not waste this golden opportunity to transform learning—TODAY.

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