



PARTNERSHIPS
FOR AUTHENTIC LEARNING & LEADERSHIP

“ENGAGING HEARTS AND MINDS” 2025

AN ONLINE AUTHENTIC LEARNING “FILM FESTIVAL”

GRADUATE OR CEU CREDIT AVAILABLE

Sponsored by Martha Holden Jennings Foundation

FACILITATED BY ELLEN ERLANGER AND KATHY MEYER
PARTNERSHIPS FOR AUTHENTIC LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

Building on the last several years’ success, this unique workshop is designed to **help educators vividly see, feel, and reflect upon the impact of authentic learning and leadership strategies** in new and different ways. Toward that end, we invite you to a **six-session “film festival”** in which each session will be lively, collaborative, thought-provoking, and uplifting.

The Driving/Essential Questions for the series will be: *How can we use service-learning, PBL, and other authentic instructional strategies to enhance emotional engagement, strengthen community-building, and support academic success? How can we use these strategies to integrate rigor, relevance, and relationships throughout students’ experiences? What can we learn from colleagues/exemplars who have succeeded in these areas?*

Sessions will feature film/video segments designed to inform and inspire teachers re: the use of authentic instructional strategies like service-learning, PBL, STEM/STEAM, and design thinking. In the case of longer films/videos, participants will be asked to view these selections in advance so that class time can be devoted to discussion and reflection. Related readings may also be recommended in connection with each session.

This hybrid workshop (Zoom and Google Classroom) is open to both new participants and educators who have taken this course in a prior school year. If you have seen a particular film(s) before, you should view the alternate selection(s) listed for each session. The themes for these selections will be compatible with those of the principal films. **This applies especially to teachers who participated in this class the last three years.** Ashland University will be giving us a new course number, so you can enroll again for credit if you choose. [Course requirements can be found here.](#)

HOW TO REGISTER: The deadline to register is January 17th. To access the registration form, scan the QR code or [use this link](#). Once you complete the registration form, you will receive a confirmation email from us with more details to prepare for session 1. The workshop, all handouts, and contact hour certification are provided **free of charge**. Participants are responsible for **Ashland University tuition costs (2 semester hours of graduate credit)** if they choose to take this workshop for graduate credit. Ashland registration information will be discussed during the first Zoom class session.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS/DATES LISTED FOLLOWING THIS PAGE



"ENGAGING HEARTS AND MINDS" 2025

AN ONLINE GRADUATE/CEU WORKSHOP DESIGNED AS A SERVICE-LEARNING/PBL FILM FESTIVAL



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There may be some changes/additions to the listed video selections. Workshop participants will be provided a final list prior to the first session.

Schedule of Sessions (Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Session #1: January 29, 2025—"Success Stories, Part 1"—Focus on Emotional Engagement

**** Session 1 films will be viewed during class.**

Video vignettes of outstanding authentic learning initiatives and how they have achieved exemplary outcomes in social/emotional learning, academic success, and other areas of student growth. Reflecting on these examples will help provide a framework for participants' own work in authentic learning and related instructional strategies (service-learning, PBL, STEM, STEAM, design thinking, etc.).

Session #2: February 12, 2025—"Eminence—School on F.I.R.E."—Focus on Innovation and School Transformation

**** Session 2 film will be viewed during class.**

In the session 2 film, you will "travel" to Eminence Independent Schools (KY) for a special building tour and to meet with Superintendent Buddy Berry. Some of you have met him at the Summer Institute — amazing! You will also hear from Eminence teachers and students as they discuss how they are "making learning irresistible." You might want to also read [Buddy's blog](#) about how Eminence is pursuing its dream of becoming the "Disney World of Education." We will provide video in Google Classroom.

Alternate Selections: Additional Eminence videos that we will provide in Google Classroom.

Session #3: February 26, 2025—"The Last Lecture"—Focus on Mission, Vision, and Legacy

**** Session 3 films will be viewed prior to class.**

Lessons learned from an outstanding educator who used hope, humor, and authentic learning to make a difference in students' lives. Participants will reflect on his mission and legacy, as well as their own. We will provide video in Google Classroom.

Alternate Selections: Additional Randy Pausch videos that we will provide in Google Classroom.

Session #4: March 12, 2025—"Paper Clips"—Focus on Community Involvement and Learning That Lasts

**** Session 4 films will be viewed prior to class.**

An award-winning documentary featuring an exceptional project about tolerance—an initiative that began simply but led to remarkable, far-reaching, and lasting impact (available through streaming and public library). We will provide video in Google Classroom.

Alternate Selection: Interview with Linda Hooper that we will provide in Google Classroom.

Session #5: April 2, 2025–“Freedom Writers”–Focus on Student Voice

**** Session 5 films will be viewed prior to class.**

A feature film based on the true story of Erin Gruwell, a Los Angeles teacher who reached her disaffected students by building relationships, providing rich, authentic learning experiences, and ensuring “voice” for students’ thoughts and feelings. The subject matter focuses on diversity, tolerance, and “coming of age” (available via streaming). **NOTE: Erin will be our opening Keynote speaker at this year’s Summer Institute for Authentic Learning and Leadership, July 9-10, 2025.**

Alternate Selection: “Once in a Lifetime” . . . The fact-based story of a class of high school students from a mixed ethnic district of Paris. Their teacher decides to enter them in a competition to examine the Holocaust from the point of view of its impact on young people. The film (in French with subtitles) contains some very emotional scenes and chronicles the change in the opinions and interactions of a typical class of adolescents. (This description is from IMDb.) **There is some profanity, especially in the beginning of the movie.** (Skip the first 7-8 minutes to avoid this.) You can stream this film for free at <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3289126/>.

Session #6: April 9, 2025–“Success Stories, Part 2”–Focus on Truer, Deeper Learning

**** Session 6 films will be viewed during class.**

Excerpts from “Beyond Measure” a highly regarded documentary that follows a new vanguard of educators across the country who are pioneering a fresh vision for American schools. Pulling from expert research in education, child development, and cognitive and neuroscience, these leaders are creating a new type of classroom. They’re leading schools that redirect our focus away from homework, prizes, top grades, and test scores. And they’re making room for authenticity, curiosity, engagement, creativity, collaboration, and independent thinking. By putting innovative models into practice, they’re finding inspiration in doing things differently—and changing how and what we teach. [This description is from IMDb.] We will provide video in Google Classroom.

Alternate Selections: Videos from Ted Dintersmith and High Tech High that we will provide in Google Classroom.

****Please hold April 30, 2024 in case an alternative date is needed.**

