MEET OUR GLOBAL TEAM OF LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

The IB has introduced a new series of workshops focused on leadership in IB World Schools. The workshops are led by an outstanding and diverse group of IB World School leaders who are passionate about sharing their knowledge and experiences to build a community of strategic and innovative IB leaders.

IB leaders are adaptive, globally and locally engaged and inspire commitment to create a better world through education by leadership grounded in professional inquiry.
Dr. Jeff Aitken  
Head of School, St John’s-Kilmarnock School (SJK)  
Ontario, Canada

I have written and worked for the IB as Deputy Chief, Principal Examiner, workshop leader and evaluator for IB’s global Quality Assurance Framework. In November 2014, I was elected to the IB Heads Council. I served as Assistant Head of the British International School in Singapore. I was also a teacher and school leader at the American International School in Caracas, Venezuela and the International School of Penang, Malaysia. My wife Mariana and I have two children who attend SJK.

Leadership is strongly people-centred. I place a priority on relationships, and strive to build trust and collaborative ways of working toward student progress and success.

Dr. Margaret Alvarez  
Principal, ISS International School  
Singapore

As the former Associate Director for the Council of International Schools (CIS), I evaluated international schools in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East and managed international school evaluations in Asia. I assisted in designing CIS protocols to measure the quality of international schools and joint evaluations with the IB. I introduced three IB programmes to ISS. I am married to Antonio and our two daughters have attended IB World Schools.

Like directing an orchestra, empowering leaders to navigate the changing international education environment whilst maintaining a collaborative environment amongst school community sectors so that they can understand, appreciate and contribute to “the music.”

Dr. Gerard Calnin  
Senior Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne  
Victoria, Australia

In the past 30 years, I have held senior leadership roles in the P–12 school sector, the tertiary sector, and at the system level. My leadership roles include Head of School, Head of Professional Development, and Head of Curriculum; I was the Dean of Studies at Newman College. I have worked at several IB World Schools, been a member of the global professional development committee, designed bespoke workshops, and helped develop the new IB Leadership Series of workshops.

Discovering and nurturing the potential of others to lead.

Denise Coates  
Principal, Lake Leman International School  
Morges, Switzerland

During the past 20 years, I have worked in three international schools in the French speaking region of Switzerland. I lead the MYP and the DP in a bilingual international school where I also became the Head of Secondary School.

My two children are DP graduates and are currently studying law and history in the United Kingdom. I am an MYP school services lead educator and a trainer of workshop leaders, school visitors, consultants and readers. Through my IB work I am able to engage with a wider community of learners to acquire and share expertise.

Leading engagement for learning.

Mark Beach  
Principal, Discovery College  
Hong Kong

I have a wide and varied educational background including early childhood to senior secondary, special needs and distance learning. From a small Maori school in New Zealand to my current position as Principal of Discovery College in Hong Kong, I focus on creating the conditions whereby exceptional teachers are able to offer the very best learning experiences and outcomes for students.

Leadership is a complex set of attitudes, skills, understandings, experiences and personal attributes that allow a person to move individuals, groups or organizations forward to an agreed vision or goal.

Kathy Derrick  
Vice Principal, Clearwater Bay School  
Hong Kong

I have gained an extensive range of educational experiences by leading workshops and visiting IB World Schools across more than 20 countries. I have held leadership positions in Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong. Additionally, I have worked with leadership teams across Asia Pacific in the implementation of the IB PYP. I believe in developing sustainable leadership structures that focus on and facilitate deep learning for students and teachers.

Leadership is about empowering and mentoring others to lead. Developing leaders who in turn develop leaders.

Kim Edwards  
Formerly Deputy Principal, Presbyterian Ladies’ College (PLC)  
Perth, Western Australia

I have taught in Australia for more than 30 years. For the past 10 years, I have been responsible for implementing and coordinating the MYP and Personal Project at PLC in Perth. I am an experienced IB trainer, MYP workshop leader, school visit team leader, consultant and field representative. I have presented at national and international conferences in America, Australia, India, and Singapore and regularly host and present to visiting schools.

Creating a collaborative culture leads to higher levels of trust and respect.

Deidre Fischer  
Head of School, DF Education  
Adelaide, South Australia

I discovered the world of teaching in the IB in 1998 when I moved overseas, teaching in the Philippines, China, Mongolia, and Indonesia. I’ve held a variety of leadership and management roles including Head of School in three IB World Schools. I combine my depth and breadth of experience with my love for teaching and facilitating within my own business. The core value that drives my career is integrity
Collaborate, listen, reflect, decide.

Australia in 2012.

Schools in the region. I returned to management of IB programmes in IB World Pacific region and was responsible for the years as head of school services in the Asia International School. I later served for five years at Ibadan International School (IIS), where I served as Head of the Upper School. I moved from the United Kingdom to Perth, Western Australia for the role at IIS, I also serve on the Board of Directors of the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA) and I am a workshop leader and trainer for the IB. In that capacity, I lead workshops and participate in authorization visits and programme evaluation visits in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Integrity, hard work, open-mindedness and flexibility are traits that equip me with the ability to support, mentor, inspire and innovate.

Darlene Fisher
Chief Learning Officer, The European Council of International Schools (ECIS) Consultant, International Baccalaureate
London, United Kingdom

I have worked for more than 30 years as a teacher and administrator. Within the last 16 years, I worked in IB World Schools in Oman, Thailand, India, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. I am currently working at ECIS to develop educational programmes for teachers and school leaders in international schools. I also support schools in the process of IB authorization. My doctoral studies focus on educational leadership and the impact of culture, and I assist in developing leadership workshops and pathways for heads of IB World Schools.

Culture matters in international leadership.

Nigel Forbes-Harper
Executive Director, Tranby College
Perth, Western Australia

I moved from the United Kingdom to Australia in 1972 and began my full-time teaching career in 1980 in Western Australia. This career took me to Papua New Guinea, the Northern Territory of Australia, Turkey and Thailand, where I served as Head of the Senior School at Prem Tinsulanonda International School. I later served for five years as head of school services in the Asia Pacific region and was responsible for the management of IB programmes in IB World Schools in the region. I returned to Australia in 2012.

Collaborate, listen, reflect, decide.

Peter Howe
Head of College, United World College (UWC) Maastricht
The Netherlands

I am currently the Head of College at UWC Maastricht. I moved to the Netherlands in January 2012 after more than six years at UWC Adriatic where I served in a myriad of roles including IB Coordinator, Deputy Head and Head of College. I am a Canadian educator, born and raised in Toronto, and am married to Sally. We have 3 children who have attended or are currently attending IB World Schools. In my spare time, I love to cycle and spend time with my wife and kids at our family home in Bourgogne.

I have an absolute faith in students and their untapped potential.

Greg Hutchings
Superintendent, Shaker Heights City Schools
Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Under my leadership, our district became one of only eight in the country authorized to offer the IB Programme to all grade levels. We have accomplished much in a short time: Our graduation rate has risen to 93%, we opened a centre to expand our early childhood education program and we enjoy an innovative partnership with Howard University to attract high-quality African-American male teachers to our schools. I have held several previous leadership roles including Director of PreK–12 Initiatives for Alexandria City Public Schools in Virginia.

An effective leader is courageous and possesses vision, integrity and passion (VIP)!

Raquel Katzkowicz
Director, Albert Einstein School
Quito, Ecuador

For the past 20 years, I have worked as a school administrator and trainer in Uruguay and Ecuador. For 10 years, I was also a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) consultant in the areas of science education and secondary-school education. Additionally, I have worked with MEd and PhD candidates on strategies for implementing innovations while respecting school cultures. My broad experience with the four IB programmes includes serving as a workshop leader for administrators, an advisor for public and private schools in several Latin American countries and a member of authorization and evaluation teams.

I firmly believe in respect for diversity and in all students’ ability to learn if we as teachers and leaders can find suitable ways to reach and teach them.

Brendan Kean
Vice Principal, English Schools Foundation
Hong Kong

I have been involved in international education (in the PYP) for almost 10 years. I am near completion of my PhD, which focuses on the use of collaboration to develop effective assessment strategies to improve student learning. I have completed a Masters of Education in PYP, contributed to PYP curriculum development, received the Jeff Thompson Research Award, trained workshop leaders and participated in school visits. In my current role, I am responsible for building leadership capacity in middle leaders, leading curriculum design and instruction and developing strong relationships with all stakeholders of the school.

Leading a school encompasses many aspects but the success of leadership is built on relationships and trust with all stakeholders.

Catherine Ige
Head of School, Ibadan International School (IIS)
Nigeria, West Africa

With more than 17 years of experience in the educational sector, I am a principled, dedicated and thorough administrator. I am a motivator, an empowerer and a stickler for detail. In addition to my role at IIS, I also serve on the Board of Directors of the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA) and I am a workshop leader and trainer for the IB.
I came to education through an interest in languages and linguistics. I made the transition to international schools while in Japan, teaching at Canadian Academy in Kobe. I moved into leadership at Hong Kong International School, where I held several positions during my 11-year tenure. I believe we owe it to our students to prepare them not only for university, but for life. The transdisciplinary nature of the IB programmes can really foster this, but it takes clear leadership to help schools, teachers, and students reach this goal. Leadership is mostly about remaining true to what we value and having the skills in management and communication to ensure those values become shared.

Mark McCallum
Vice Principal/Head of Secondary, Chatswood International School
Singapore
I am an educational change-agent, having spent the past 16 years in mid-sized international schools in Singapore. I have been Head of High School and Head of Secondary/Vice Principal at two international schools in Singapore. I have overseen the school-wide implementation of the DP and MYP in two different schools. My passion as an educator is in leading educational changes in schools, and in navigating great groups of teachers through school change. I have unique insight into educational change, having led two schools firsthand through multi-year educational change processes. Successful leaders have to understand themselves, understand their organizations, develop a strategic vision, and have the courage to act.

Dr. Jim McConnell
Founding Head, Stratford Hall
Vancouver, Canada
I have more than 40 years of experience in schools, with more than half in senior administration. Stratford Hall has been one of the leaders in developing an IB Continuum experience; I led the authorization process for the PYP, MYP and DP and worked at creating a strong and unified IB culture throughout the school. My own leadership has been formed from a range of experiences and reflection, but most importantly through academic work in my doctorate studies. The lifeworld of leadership.
JoAn Radojkovich  
**Principal, Primary School Canadian International School**  
**Singapore**

I have been involved in all facets of education, educating students (PreK – university), training teachers, actively working with parent groups, partnering with non-governmental organizations, and working as global curriculum manager for the IB. A firm believer in the power of a well-educated mind and heart, I am dedicated to developing, teaching, consulting, and inspiring the values and philosophy of the IB. I am passionate about pioneering new educational initiatives and putting research into practice. Leadership requires character and competence to understand self, the context you lead in and where and how to move next.

Kathy Saville  
**Leader, Wesley College**  
**Melbourne, Australia**

I have been involved in education for more than 25 years and have taught in kindergarten, primary and junior secondary classes, as well as in tertiary institutions in both undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs. I am currently the College Teaching and Learning Leader at Wesley College, Melbourne, which is an independent coeducational school of 3200 students on three campuses. Involved in the PYP since 2002, I helped introduce this programme to the Glen Waverley campus, where I was also PYP coordinator. I have seen the programme through its authorization and subsequent first evaluation visit. I have also been Deputy Director of Curriculum K–12. I have been a PYP workshop leader, visiting team member and leader, field representative, and consultant for a number of years. A shared vision that is collaboratively constructed and grounded in identified best practice.

Mona Seervai  
**Principal, Bombay International School**  
**Mumbai, India**

I have lived life in 10-year nuggets—first I pursued biochemistry until my mid-twenties. Next I worked with poor urban women, trying to organize them around shelter in Mumbai. This is my twelfth year as the principal of a school offering the DP, Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and a candidate for PYP. The IB has reaffirmed my educational philosophy and beliefs and helped me meet many like-minded individuals across the world. I have been on the Regional Council since 2012 and also serve on the Board of the Indian School Leadership Institute. A leader is one who is active, passionate and has the energy to drive programmes and the warmth and empathy to carry the team forward and support when there are challenges.

Lucila Sotomayor y Pena  
**Director, Bachillerator Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP)**  
**Puebla, Mexico**

In 1969, I became an English teacher. In 1985, I cofounded a K–12 bilingual school, served as the academic director and was involved in the professional development of my teammates. I led the implementation of the PYP, MYP and DP programmes in the school. Since 2009, I have led the implementation of the DP and the CP in UPAEP high schools. Teaching others has made me a lifelong learner and serving others has given me a sense of purpose. Now, learning to lead others to serve is one of the most important aspects of my life. **Leading through service.**
Andreas Swoboda
Head of School, International School of Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany

In 1993, I started teaching in Meru, Kenya. In 1996, I took my first leadership position as Administration Manager of the German Nairobi School. From 2001 to 2009, I served the German European School Singapore, first as Director of Administration, and later as the founding Director of the European Section. I worked in Mumbai, India, as Head of School at Oberoi International School, before I joined the International School of Hamburg. I have experience in three IB programmes and serve on various authorization committees for the DP in Asia Pacific.

I strongly believe involving the team in important decision making processes. This makes projects their own and in turn helps develop individual skills and increases job satisfaction.

Jimena Taboada
Head of School, St Brendan’s School
Montevideo, Uruguay

I have been an active member of the IB educator network since 2001 when I was trained as a PYP site visitor and workshop leader. I was also a regional representative in the PYP committee from 2005–2008 and chaired the same committee in the term 2009–2010. I am passionate about educational inquiry and contributed to the development of various IB curriculum documents. I currently reside in Montevideo with my husband Fernando.

Leadership is about building the collective capacity of the school community so that the learning experiences are successful in fulfilling the shared vision of making a better world through education.

Vanita Uppal
Director, The British School of New Delhi
New Delhi, India

I work with schools in India on curriculum development for International General Certificate of Secondary Education and IB programmes. I am a member of Visiting Accreditation Teams for the Council of International Schools, a mentor with the Global Teacher Accreditation Programme of the British Council, member of the Headmasters & Headmistresses Conference and a member of the IB educator network (IBEN). I serve as Honorary Secretary to Friends of Round Square, South East Asia and the Gulf Region. Currently, I am leading a mentoring initiative with a school in central India.

Inspiring, listening, collaborating, building capacity and leading with passion, empathy and integrity is my mantra.

Chris Wright
Director of Education, Woodard Schools
United Kingdom

I have been working in education for more than 30 years in a range of roles, including as head of three schools. My first IB experience was in 1995 when I worked in the Middle East as principal of an international school. There, I introduced the DP and was the theory of knowledge coordinator. I have been fortunate to work with schools in Albania, Venezuela, Russia, Mostar in Bosnia, and Greece and am interested in how successful leadership in international schools is both culture and context driven.

Schooling is about human flourishing, and expert leaders making a difference.

Sean Watt
Deputy Head of School, Preparatory
Prince Alfred College
South Australia, Australia

I have held leadership positions in schools for more than 15 years. I have worked in Primary, Middle and Senior School settings through a range of classes and subjects. My senior leadership positions include Head of Teaching and Learning, Head of Middle School and Head of Junior School. I have been lucky to be involved in developing and leading workshops with the IB for the past three years.

Every person has a worth that needs fostering and developing.

Peter Welch
Director, International School of Helsinki (ISH)
Helsinki, Finland

I am director of ISH, a three-programme IB World School with a diverse Pre-K–12 student population. I have served as Director of the International Community School in Istanbul—a school with a similar profile to ISH. Previously, I was head of the American Pacific International School in Thailand. Originally from Nottingham, England, I have spent most of my career overseas, working in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. My wife, Suzanne, is an artist and hails from Toronto, Canada. Our daughter Gaby is Grade 5 at ISH.

The nature of effective leadership is entirely dependent on the cultural and professional context of our work.

Learn more about the IB Leadership Workshop Series.
www.ibo.org/professionaldevelopment/ib-leadership-series

Register for a workshop at
www.ibo.org/en/workshops (keyword “lead”)