

## EDUCATION TRENDS IN SWITZERLAND MIRROR THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES

By Past President Lorna Lewis, Plainview-Old Bethpage

What does it feel like to be a part of an event focused on harnessing the power of communication to make meaningful global changes? Inspirational, uplifting and life changing are some of the descriptors I would use to describe the experience of the Global Leadership Summit sponsored by Premier Diamond Partner EF Tours, in partnership with THE COUNCIL.



A group of four fortunate New York State Superintendents – myself; **Bo Wright**, Rush-Henrietta; **Lori Caplan**, Watervliet; and **Angelina Maloney**, Brunswick; received scholarships from THE COUNCIL that allowed us to participate. Other colleagues from the state used professional development funds to participate in the experience as well. Together, we joined colleagues from Ohio in exploring all aspects of the history and culture of Switzerland.

From the moment we touched down in Geneva, we knew that this was going to be an experience of a lifetime. Our first stop was at the Red Cross Museum where we saw up-close artifacts to support their historical work in

support of the needy around the world. At the Rolex Learning Center at the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) <https://www.epfl.ch/en/>, we experienced the impact of architecture on learning as we explored a building designed without walls to encourage productive work through collaboration.

It was then off on a train to Zermatt, a municipality in Southern Switzerland, to make the climb up to the Matterhorn, a mountain of the Alps. We had to give way to the mountain goats making their morning trek down the mountain as we boarded the cable cars for the most spectacular views of the snow-covered peaks. The trip continued to Lucerne, a compact city in Switzerland known for its preserved medieval architecture, and a quick pass through Lichtenstein, a German-speaking, principality between Austria and Switzerland.

At the EF headquarters in Zurich, a global center for banking and finance, we were able to contrast our educational system with that of the Swiss. Their focus was on preparing multi-lingual learners for jobs that do not currently exist. They stressed the importance of nurturing skills of adaptability and teaching for multiple career pathways possibilities. It was interesting to see that the educational trends they identified to guide their work were similar to those we also identified here in the United States including:

- Demographic Shifts
- Equity
- Technology
- Student Engagement
- Social-Emotional Learning
- College and Career Readiness
- Role of the Teacher

There was a lively discussion on how we could proactively use these trends to create more relevant experiences for the learners we serve.

Then it was off to Davos, a town in the Swiss Alps, where we were greeted by a team of EF partners with thunderous applause as we walked through a wall of high-fivers to welcome us to the most amazing experience. About 2,000 educators and students from all over the world convened to have meaningful conversations about effective communication.

There were several teachers of the year participating, including the Arkansas teacher of the year from Little Rock, who happened to be African American (change has come to America). We heard from keynoters Clint Smith, a poet and fighter for equality; journalist Ann Curry; student activists, including Parkland's Dave Hogg, and violinist extraordinaire Kai Kight who asked the students, "When it comes to your life, are you writing the music or are you playing notes handed to you by others?" Every message was meant to empower and create cognitive dissonance to drive action.

The students were charged with working in groups to create a project to address meaningful communication for global changes. Educators had the opportunity to visit rooms to watch "creative juices flow" as the students collaborated



## ON THE MOVE...

## APPOINTMENTS

**Rebecca Dunckel-King**  
8/19, Lowville Academy CSD

**Douglas McQueer**  
7/29, Hammond CSD

**David Ziskin**  
8/19, Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES

## INTERIMS

**John Donohue**  
7/19, Ticonderoga CSD

**Dennis Ford**  
7/19, Victor CSD

**Scott Osborne**  
7/19, Chazy UFSD

**Susan Todd**  
7/19, Morristown CSD

**Lisa Weber**  
7/19, Suffern CSD

**Donna Jones**  
7/19, Patchogue-Medford UFDS

## RETIREMENTS

**Jody Manning**  
6/19, Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES

**Laura Marlow**  
8/19, Northern Adirondack CSD

**John McDonald**  
7/19, Ticonderoga CSD

**Stephen Shafer**  
8/19, Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES

**Cheryl Steckly**  
7/19, Lowville Academy CSD

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with their newly-made friends from around the world. We were then tasked to judge the projects, knowing that the final one selected would be on display in the Nobel Museum for one year. When we saw the final 10 projects selected, we all agreed that this was an experience we had to replicate in our own districts.

Our Tour Director, Conny Cossa, left us with a memorable quote as we spoke about the current state of the world, "We don't need to disagree less, we need to disagree better." Wise words to take us into this new election season and the new school year.

We cannot say enough of our team from EF Tours - Michele Ahouse, Jim Mc Dermott and our tour director, Conny. They planned each moment of this special experience to perfection. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity of a lifetime that THE COUNCIL and LEAF, Inc. in partnership with EF Tours, will again be providing members of THE COUNCIL in 2020. The topic will be the Impact of Sports and Wellness and visit both Davos for the Global Leadership Summit, as well as Northern Italy.



## A PERSPECTIVE: INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPANDS HORIZONS & CULTURAL AWARENESS

By Angelina Maloney, Brunswick



I didn't know that I needed to travel to Europe. I have always been supportive, yet cautious of student travel. As a leader for the last 15 years, I never prioritized international travel for myself. For years, I have spoken to school boards about the value and importance of travel for the students in my charge, yet failed to take my own advice.

This winter, while sitting at my desk looking out the window at the gloomy upstate weather, I took a leap and

applied for THE COUNCIL'S scholarship for professional leadership travel with EF Tours. I sent it and continued with my work. I was pleasantly surprised when I was selected to join my colleagues from across our state and from Ohio to learn about Switzerland. This opportunity has been life-changing for me, both personally and professionally.

EF planned an amazing 10-day tour for the leaders on this trip. My expectations for the learning and enrichment on this trip were far exceeded. Switzerland is a gorgeous and fascinating place that I never imagined I would get to see. I will always treasure my memories of the colors of the beautiful landscape of this country.

Tour guides brought us to some of the most beautiful and historic places with an engaging narrative. Not only did I learn about Swiss culture and language; I learned about

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American History as well. My eyes were opened to how Europeans speak multiple languages easily yet in America we fail to prioritize the early integration of world languages so that our students can be conversational. I was embarrassed to say that our school system is woefully behind our European counterparts on educating our students to be global citizens.

We explored churches and learned how to engage in basic conversation in a foreign tongue. I tried new foods and was awestruck by the worldly mindset of people that I interacted with throughout my trip. My trip also included a global leadership summit, attended by thousands of students and educators, as the culmination of this adventure.

To say I was invigorated is an understatement.



In addition to my own learning, I learned firsthand about EF, the global company that many of my teachers and students used to travel. I am now more confident than ever in the safety and experiences of my students after working with them on this trip. I had the opportunity to tour the EF headquarters and meet with the international staff that plans and manages trips. As a leader, I am now more committed than ever to ensuring a global mindset throughout my District and student/teacher travel.



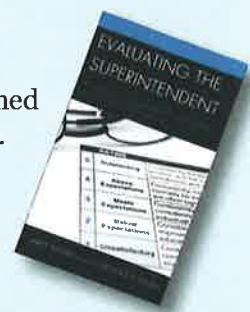
Before I had even returned home, I was mentally planning my next trip abroad. This trip opened my eyes to a world that both me, and more importantly, many of the students in my district have not had the chance to truly grasp. I am now more committed than ever to incorporating the ethos of service learning into my student body. Specifically, I hope to instill the value added on these learning tours, such as the social emotional growth that can come from expanding your horizons, the cultural awareness you gain being around a language and lifestyles that differ from yours.

So, at the beginning of the summer, I didn't know that I needed to travel this way, in fact, I didn't prioritize it. Now, my invigorated self understands that this will help me to be the leader that my students deserve.

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

Congratulations to **Constance Evelyn**, Valley Stream, and co-author **Jarrett Powers** on their newly published book "Evaluating the Superintendent," which was unveiled at our Diversity Symposium in July in Ithaca.

Don't forget to check out **Roberto Padilla's** cover story in School Administrator's August issue titled "Courageous Conversations, Concrete Action" which identifies inequities in school practices at Newburgh Schools, moving from rhetoric to action. Here is a link: <http://www.pageturnpro.com/AASA/91024-August-2019/index.html>. Here is a video he is featured in: <https://youtu.be/tKAtaepiljk>.



Culinary graduate Megan O'Toole represented **Capital Region BOCES** and New York State on the national stage at the SkillsUSA competition in Kentucky during National Culinary Arts Month. She will attend SUNY Schenectady this fall.



Congratulations to **Lorna Lewis**, Plainview-Old Bethpage, and **Hank Grishman**, Jericho, for being featured in the AASA, The School Superintendents Association, Leaders Matter program. <http://aasacentral.org/2019/07/23/ny/>

Kudos to **Richard Loeschner**, Brentwood, and his district's fifth grade student, Pablo Herrera, who was a winner at the National Spanish Spelling Bee. Check out this Newsday story: <https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/brentwood-student-wins-national-spanish-spelling-bee-1.34460389>