“Of all the conferences I have attended in the last few years, the itslearning leadership conference has provided me with the most substance and relevant topics in education.”

Attendee
Our intention with the itslearning Leadership Network is to:

- Build your network
- Discuss how to use changes in the platform to drive change
- Share & co-create best practice

Read on and get a summary of the nicest bits from Solstrand 2016!

Hope to see you at Solstrand 2017, November 28-29!
Our Mission
Improve the world by helping each student reach their potential with technology

Our Vision
- Transform education processes with technology
  - Quality
  - Personalisation
  - Mobility

Our Core Values
- Passionate
- Competent
- Reliable

Our partnership with Gooru supports Personalised Learning
- Millions of resources
- Thousands of collections
- Over 35 featured courses

From Device to Digitalisation: focus on the system, leadership and operational culture – enabling new processes that create added value.

New product areas to better match your goals
- Onboarding and UX
- Mobile and Communication
- Assessment and Grading
- Cloud Integrations
- Library and Sharing
- Reporting
Fast-forward to 2036: Imagine the World in 20 Years!

The last time the world faced a learning revolution of this magnitude was when Gutenberg invented the printing press in the 15th century. Is mobile going to be a similar revolution? The internet went mainstream in the 90's, and accelerated the ever-growing rate of change in our society. Even though we perceive the rate of change as being faster than ever before, many of today's K12 students grew up not knowing a world without digital tools.

Develop lifelong learners

As we struggle to adapt and modify our learning institutions, we have to stop and think. In 20 years, what kind of world will our students live in?

As IT and easily accessible knowledge are two factors increasing at an impossible rate, there are many conversations about what key skills and attitudes students will need in the future. The goal is to turn them into life-long learners, capable of adapting to changing circumstances and capable of learning on their own, as needed.

What can technology and new school models do for our students’ need to retain their natural state of human connectedness and innate curiosity – so they can be prepared to become active participants in their futures?

Learner-centred education is key to developing life-long learners:

- Personalised learning
- Authentic connected learning
- Flexible environment where pacing is mastery-based

Technology is an important tool to bring the “real world” into the classroom. Authentic learning helps inner city, low income and minority students see a connection between education and the ability to solve (their) everyday life problems.

“Education is the most effective way out of poverty and isolation. Education empowers people.”

Beatriz Arnillas, Director of IT, Houston ISD, USA
Even though the presentations covered a wide range of topics, they all provided a coherent vision about the problems we must solve and the issues we must consider when designing learning for 21st Century learners.

Attendee
Motivating teachers for change: experiences from Finland

No more “carrots and sticks”

The challenge of adopting new technology it is not routine

When we have to perform routine tasks we just do it

When we have to perform non-routine tasks we have barriers and it takes energy, only a few will perform

Regardless of the changes in the world around us, the principles of human motivation remain unchanged. When it comes to teachers adopting new roles or using new technology, motivation is essential, as they are not routine tasks.

Motivating with “carrots” or “sticks” would work well for simple, mechanical tasks, but they don’t work well when it comes to more complicated tasks; when we need conceptual, creative thinking and high-level activation of the prefrontal cortex.

Learning something new requires energy and is an implicit threat to the brain. If the reward is smaller than the outcome, most people will try new things!

Research shows that, in the long run, we are most commonly motivated by:

- **Autonomy** – we value having a choice
- **Mastery** – we want to be good at things
- **Purpose** – it has to be meaningful
- **Relatedness** – being connected to others

“We need to make sure that the context is supportive, otherwise only highly-motivated teachers will adopt technology.”

Attendee

Speaker:
Matti Aarnio
PhD, itslearning Educational Consultant, Finland
Quick Wins

Long-term gains

Technological & pedagogical support
Leadership & working culture & commitment

Autonomy
Mastery
Purpose
Relatedness

a pre-requisite
We believe

- Learning is about human interaction
- Every student is different and needs a personal approach to learning
- Self-aware students learn better
- Great teachers continuously try to improve their practices

What is the role of an LMS today:

- Never down, no errors!
- Intuitive, easy to understand
- Ease the workload of the teachers, not increase
- Easy for teacher and student to see the objectives, and navigate the learning goals
- Never technology for the sake of technology

What tools Sandvika uses the most:

- Messages
- Feed
- Planner
- Assessments
- Standard and Learning Objective overview

Why itslearning is changing

- There is a widening gap in the way our students learn, inside and outside their formal education context.
- There is a different skill-set demanded from 21st Century learners.
- Teachers must adapt to the new environment and change the way they see their role.
- Today your primary device is a mobile phone, and its importance will only increase.

“Most teachers don’t even know about these itslearning features, and great opportunities!”

Attendee
Managing the Change: Take the journey with the Teachers

Inspiration to implement change:

- Do not just use technology for old processes – but implement new processes and possibilities as a result of using new technology
- Acknowledge the whole adaptation cycle: ensure that all necessary material is provided for learning
- Leaders should be a driving force in digital change/motivate from the top down
- Make sure there is a carrot, and a clear goal to create a leap
- Measure over a long time period – don’t rush it!
- Allow teachers to try/fail/have time to learn
- Teachers should also be ‘owners’ of their learning process
- Take culture into consideration

Successful teacher involvement:

- Foster pedagogical dialogue among teachers
- Self-assessment
- Course organisation
- Focus on learning outcome
- Teacher showing teachers
- Acknowledge the adaption scale
- Share & celebrate success
How can you improve student outcome using digital tools and content?

- Work with a company that is committed to working as a partner in education to solve our problems – this was one of Houston ISD's reasons for choosing itslearning.
- Use a digital teaching and learning platform to deliver flexible learning opportunities – a big reason Houston ISD continues to be happy using itslearning.
- Design master courses to manage change

How digital tools and content can help:

- Technology allows Houston ISD to scale personalisation and differentiation
- Technology brings world experiences into the classroom without breaking the budget (field testers, augmented reality, virtual reality, case studies)
- Technology expands the source of information, from 1 teacher and 1 textbook, to authentic information from many sources around the world, including science organisations, museums and universities
- Technology provides the tools to implement Universal Design for Learning (UDL) (multiple options for representation, expression and engagement)

“Personalisation, UDL, Rotational models, flipped learning, growth mindset; they are probably all effective methods of learner-centred instruction, but none of them will be effective unless we support our students’ need for connection with others, and consider authentic (connected) learning.”

Beatriz Arnillas, Director of IT, Houston ISD
About itslearning

With over 7 million users, itslearning is one of the world's largest providers of learning platforms for the education market. Our learning management system starts with the student and connects people to ideas, passions, and each other. Established in 1999, itslearning is headquartered in Bergen, Norway, and Boston, Massachusetts.

Hope to see you at Solstrand 2017, November 28-29!

An agenda will be sent out soon.

For more information, visit
itslearning.com