



## Virginia School Consortium for Learning 2023 Student Leadership Conference and Design Institute

Dear Faculty Advisor,

The Virginia School Consortium for Learning (VaSCL) has sponsored an annual Student Leadership Conference for the past thirty-two years. Starting in 2021, VaSCL shifted to a Student Leadership Design Institute that was attended by over 200 students and faculty advisors from 35 different high schools. After two years of virtual Design Institutes, VaSCL is excited to announce that the 2023 Student Design Institute will be our first in-person student event since 2019. As in previous events, the goal of this year is to provide a leadership development opportunity for students from member divisions. **The Student Design Institute is a benefit of your division's membership in VaSCL and is absolutely FREE to all participants. This year the Student Leadership Design Institute will be held onsite at the [Holiday Inn, Emmett Street in Charlottesville.](#)**

The Student Leadership Design Institute, is scheduled from 9:00 am -12:30 pm on March 23. This year, teams will design solutions to a challenge focused on ***Think Globally, Act Locally: Teen Designed Solutions.*** Design teams might choose to work on a challenge of their own choosing or explore one of the following topics as a design challenge: Education, Housing, Criminal Justice, Poverty, Pollution, Sickness & Disease, Gender Inequality, Decent Work Opportunities and Economic Growth.

The Design Institute will be led by [Dee Lanier](#) and teams will be facilitated by student leaders. Dee is an experienced teacher and design thinking facilitator who brings deep expertise to his work with students as co-designers of solutions to authentic challenges. Adam Seipel, experienced high school educator and learning technology facilitator will also support Institute teams.

Your high school may select one or even two teams of three-five students each (including a designated student team leader for each team) plus faculty advisors to participate in this year's Design Institute. Teams will identify a problem of interest and begin generating ideas for a teen-designed solution before the Institute. **During the Institute they will work on their design challenge plan, share and receive feedback from peers, and determine a strategy for formally communicating solutions to decision-makers of their choice.**

More information on the Institute is available on the VaSCL website at this [link](#). The registration form is linked [here](#). If your high school can participate in this Design Institute, by January 27 you will need to REGISTER that you will have 1-2 team(s) participate. Please identify a student team leader, a faculty advisor, and team members if possible. **However, you will have until February 28 to add or revise team members if your team is not set by January 27. You can edit team members on your original form but must use the same email you used to indicate a team from your school will participate.**

Synchronous training of student Team Leaders by Dee Lanier will occur on February 1 and February 15. We ask that Team Leaders attend one-hour sessions scheduled on those dates. We are offering a choice of two time slots on those dates, either 9-10 am or 4-5 pm. For team leaders who cannot attend a session, a zoom video recording link will be sent via email to faculty advisors.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me [adwierselden@vascl.org](mailto:adwierselden@vascl.org) We hope that your school will be a part of the 2023 Design Institute – it promises to be a memorable event!

Sincerely,

Alison Dwier-Selden, VaSCL Professional Learning and SLC Coordinator