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# Networked Learning Group at AERA Annual Meeting 2005

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April 11-15, 2005  
Montréal, Canada

Networked Learning Communities

learning from each other   learning with each other   learning on behalf of each other

# AERA 2005

National College for School Leadership  
Networked Learning Communities programme

The Networked Learning Communities (NLC) programme, launched in September 2002, brings together clusters of schools, Local Authorities (School Districts), Higher Education Institutions and the wider community, to work collaboratively to raise standards and improve opportunities for their pupils. The NLC programme is almost certainly the largest such initiative in the world, and is the National College for School Leadership's (NCSL's) largest development and research programme. The main aims of the programme are to develop good network forums, learn about networked learning and to influence the wider education system.

There are currently 137 networks collaborating across the country, including approximately 1,500 schools, 25,000 staff and over 500,000 pupils. This represents around 5 per cent of the schools in the country. In addition, 21

Local Authorities are now involved in a development and research project which is acting as a test-bed for initial findings generated from the main programme.

The Networked Learning Group of NCSL is presenting a symposium which builds on the work presented at AERA's 2004 Annual Meeting. There are also two papers in other symposia.

Contact details and descriptions of some of the products developed through the programme are illustrated opposite.

## Symposium – Network Solutions to Adaptive Challenges: the development of system thinkers and adaptive leadership

Division A, Section 3: School Improvement

Hilton Montreal Bonaventure      Fundy  
Tuesday 12 April, 2005      10.35-12.05

### Paper One

Network-based reform: dealing with the adaptive challenges facing the UK education system  
*Valerie Hannon (Innovation Unit, DfES)*

### Paper Two

Local government's response to the emergence of school networks: LEA-wide support for school-to-school networks  
*David Jackson (Networked Learning Group, NCSL) & Maggie Farrar (Leadership Programmes, NCSL)*

### Paper Three

System thinkers in action? The leadership of networks of schools  
*Michelle Anderson (Networked Learning Group, NCSL)*

### Paper Four

The relationships between adaptive network leaders and the creation of distributed leadership in networks  
*Dr Mark Hadfield (Networked Learning Group, NCSL)*

## Symposium – Speaking Up and Speaking Out: international perspectives on the democratic possibilities of student voice

Division L: Education Policies and Politics

Hilton Montreal Bonaventure      Montreal Ballroom  
Thursday 14 April, 2005      10.35-12.05

New Spaces for Dialogue?

*Dr. Michael Fielding (Sussex University) & Dr Jane McGregor (Networked Learning Group, NCSL)*

## Interactive Symposium – The Life and Work of Principals Worldwide

Divison A: International Committee

Marriott Montreal Chaplain      Salle de Bal  
Tuesday 12 April, 2005      16.05-18.05

*David Jackson (Networked Learning Group, NCSL)*

## NCSL publications and resources



### Nexus

To celebrate existing examples of networked learning activity, the Networked Learning Communities' printed magazine, Nexus, is published three times a year. Available free of charge, Nexus is the magazine of choice for over 10,000 subscribers involved in, or committed to, networking and collaboration. Past themes have included: networked learning, pupil voice, impact on pupil learning, and leadership. The summer 2005 edition, developed in partnership with the DfES Innovation Unit, focuses on different

network types – drawing on the range of initiatives which characterise the current education system.

If you would like to order past copies or subscribe to the regular mailing list, please email your full name and postal address to [nlc@ncsl.org.uk](mailto:nlc@ncsl.org.uk)



### What is a Networked Learning Community? CD-Rom

This is a CD-Rom for people involved in setting up and supporting networked learning communities or other types of school network.

It is designed for people facilitating change in networks – individuals such as a co-leader, an external facilitator or a consultant. It's also for use by groups of leaders and facilitators across networks such as teacher enquirers, lead learners, subject leaders and governors.

To request a copy of this CD-Rom, please email you full name and postal address to [nlc@ncsl.org.uk](mailto:nlc@ncsl.org.uk)

### What are we learning about...? series

The *What are we learning about...?* series is designed to make public the learning that has emerged from NCSL's Networked Learning Communities programme and other initiatives during the last two years.

**Edition one: LEA involvement in school networks** In the first edition in the series, we outline some of the different roles which LEAs perform and look at concrete examples of what that looks like in practice. We explore the concept of brokerage as a way of describing what LEAs do to support networks of schools.

### Edition two: Establishing a network of schools

In the second edition in the series, we outline the key elements we have found to be evident when establishing a network of schools. We explore why networks are important and what is distinctive about collaborative working.

These ideas are then illustrated through a series of think pieces, accounts of practice and development tools. These are intended to enable you to engage with theory, practice and policy perspectives on the best of what we are learning about...

*What are we learning about...? edition three, Community Leadership in Networks, and edition four, 'Making Mathematics Count' in School Networks* are currently going to print. To order copies, or to sign up for future editions, please email [nlc@ncsl.org.uk](mailto:nlc@ncsl.org.uk) or download from [www.ncsl.org.uk/nlc](http://www.ncsl.org.uk/nlc)



### Connecting up online...

#### talk2learn: Learning Networks Exchange

The Learning Networks Exchange online community in talk2learn aims to connect up thinking around learning networks.

Online tools now available for use in the new talk2learn are:

- live chat
- survey & voting functions
- hotseat
- co-construction of a document
- varied dialogue opportunities
- network online communities

Access online or register to be a member of the Learning Networks Exchange online community at [www.talk2learn.com](http://www.talk2learn.com)

#### NCSL Networked Learning Group website

The new NLG website is now live with up-to-the-minute information on networked learning opportunities, programmes, publications and resources.

Downloadable information is available on the Networked Learning Group's:

- work and activities
- programmes & events
- publications & resources
- steering group and associates opportunities

Take a look at the new website resource at [www.ncsl.org.uk/nlc](http://www.ncsl.org.uk/nlc)

#### NLG Learning Exchange Online (LEO)

The LEO website provides networks with a space to share their work, ideas, resources and learning.

LEO's powerful search engine, enables you to search for the latest publications, documents, events and news from networks nationwide and includes:

- network homepages
- links to useful websites
- network news & information
- document upload & download

A new guest log-in facility is now available or you can register for full membership at [www.nlcexchange.org.uk](http://www.nlcexchange.org.uk)