

Innovating from the Top

Essential Strategies of Technology and Innovation Leadership for Today's Heads

Bios

Liz Davis is the assistant head of school at Synapse School (California). She started as a public school teacher before briefly going to work on the corporate side of educational technology. She came back to education, first as a technology integrator for another public school, then as director of academic technology for six years at Belmont Hill School (Massachusetts). She got involved in the Web 2.0 revolution and dialed into professional development opportunities throughout the country, both as an attendee and presenter. From there, Davis moved into curriculum leadership, eventually becoming the assistant head of school at Synapse School.

DuBose Egleston is head of school at Porter Gaud School (South Carolina). He rose up the ranks of Porter Gaud, starting out as the Director of Technology from 2000 to 2005. Initially, his primary area of focus was IT. However, because technology touches every department, he came to learn about all areas of school operations, from admissions to finance and academics. Later, he served as the school's Assistant Head for Finance and Operations for four years, acting as the school's CFO while still managing the technology department. He became Head of School in 2010 after serving for eight months as an interim.

Jim Foley is assistant head of school for leadership and innovation at St. Luke's School (Connecticut). His career began in corporate finance and banking. However, with his mom, a former computer science teacher, to inspire him, Foley eventually found himself back in the classroom teaching math. Having witnessed the 1990s desktop revolution in the corporate world, Foley was surprised to see technology still so far removed from education. After eight years of teaching, he earned a master's degree in educational technology and became St. Luke's first academic technology coordinator. In 2011, the school opened its Center for Leadership, one goal of which was to become a hub for curricular innovation. Foley took on this new program because his school viewed technology as a fundamental ingredient to leadership and innovation. In 2015, he was appointed assistant head.

Antonio Viva is head of school at Walnut Hill School for the Arts (Massachusetts). This is his 20th year working in education. He started as a theater and English teacher and, after demonstrating an early proclivity with technology in his classroom, became his school's first technology teacher. Later, he went to work for the U.S. Department of Education, where he contributed to a school-reform research project focused on technology innovation. In 2001, he joined Worcester Academy (Massachusetts) as its first chief information officer. This role in a school was nearly unheard of at the time, but the school was looking for a visionary leader who could not only manage its data systems but also lead the professional growth of its faculty vis-à-vis educational technology. In 2005 he was appointed Assistant Head of School at Worcester Academy and left in 2010 to become head of school at Walnut Hill School for the Arts.

Gabriel Lucas has been working in the educational technology field for over a decade. In 2014 Gabe co-founded ATLIS and served as the first Board President, helping establish and grow the association. Gabe worked in two Silicon Valley area independent schools as a teacher and later technology director. In 2015, Gabe founded Ed Tech Recruiting, a management-consulting firm supporting schools on strategic educational technology initiatives. Ed Tech Recruiting, which is based in San Carlos, CA, helps schools assess, recruit, and transition in the complex and ever-changing area of educational technology. In his role as principal, Gabe has worked with schools across the US and internationally on challenging change management projects involving staffing, strategy, and systems.

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