Problem Statement

- Evidence-based practices that could improve student outcomes are not being adopted, despite the good intentions of dedicated educators.
- There are a variety of reasons why this is so.
  - Educators don’t trust the evidence they are given.
  - Even when they trust the evidence in theory, they often lack the information, confidence, or support they need to implement and adapt the practices in their own classrooms.
- Despite formidable barriers to adoption, we at e-Literate see growing adoption of evidence-based practices in many places.
- But the innovators are not talking to each other, or to colleagues who could learn from them, because they are not networked together in a common cause.
Theory of Change

• If the entire education sector could agree on a common priority of learning how we can continuously improve student outcomes, we would progress more quickly.

• One way to foster that goal is to give it a name, like “Empirical Education.”

• Another is to foster collaborative projects that bridge natural gaps between networks, like those between networks of researchers, practitioners, and vendors.

• A third is to highlight and give credit to projects that advance empirical education.

The Empirical Educator Project

• We started with an initial cohort of about 50 people in different roles and from different institutions (including large and small vendors).

• We gathered for a two-day summit to peer review the ideas on the previous two slides and to identify potential collaborative projects.

• We will continue to promote that project work and invite a second cohort to join the group in progress.

• We will use the platform we have at e-Literate to promote good work and contributions around empirical education.

• At the end of the first year, we will evaluate the progress made by the project and adjust our plan to proceed based on the evidence we have gathered regarding our hypothesized problems and solutions.
Today’s Panel

**Empirical Educators**

Curtiss Barnes  
Managing Director, Global Product Management & Design, Pearson

Lauren Herckis  
Simon Initiative Research Faculty, Carnegie Mellon University

Tina Parscal  
Executive Director, CCCOnline, Colorado Community College System

**Empirical Moderators**

Michael Feldstein  
Co-Publisher and Partner, e-Literate

Phil Hill  
Co-Publisher and Partner, e-Literate