

The **Carnegie Foundation** is committed to building a field around the use of improvement science and networked improvement communities to solve longstanding inequities in educational outcomes. To address this need, we initiated the Summit on Improvement in Education to catalyze and support a future in which continuous improvement is occurring every day in thousands of settings.

In just seven years, Carnegie's Summit has developed a vibrant learning community by engaging diverse groups of educational professionals—such as school and district leaders, staff from charter management organizations, leaders in state departments of education and professional organizations, entrepreneurs, faculty from higher education organizations, students, parents, and community leaders—in service of addressing complex problems and issues of inequity in educational outcomes.

While the Summit community continues to grow in size, from 400 attendees at the inaugural conference in 2014 to more than 2,000 registered attendees in 2020, it has also grown in thought and practice. The Summit provides for those new to improvement, opportunities to learn about the productive use of improvement principles, networks, and supportive methods and tools; for those already engaged in improvement, opportunities to present their progress in sessions and at poster receptions; and for all attendees, a space for learning about practices that are resulting in measurable improvements and achieving ambitious goals for students.

Carnegie Foundation's 2021 Hybrid Summit Event: The Best of Both Worlds

Carnegie Foundation's eighth annual Summit is scheduled for April 25–27 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. Building on the learning we gained in pivoting the 2020 Summit from a physical space to a virtual one, our 2021 conference will be a hybrid event of in-person and digital programming.

The in-person Summit will offer full-day pre-conference courses, keynote speakers, breakout sessions, a poster gallery, and networking opportunities. Running alongside the physical event will be a livestreamed experience with activity structures to facilitate remote engagement in breakout sessions and virtual networking activities. Learning opportunities for both audiences will be given equal attention, and all sessions recorded for on-demand viewing in the Summit 2021 Digital Library by all attendees.

While there are undoubtedly elements of an in-person gathering that cannot be replicated in the virtual space, we know from our 2020 Summit experience that virtual events can successfully engage a larger and more diverse audience—those who may choose not to attend the in-person conference because of the costs of registration, travel, and accommodations; their inability to take time away from home and work responsibilities; or their concern of traveling and gathering in groups due to the coronavirus even after the government lifts restrictions.

We care deeply about the health and well-being of our Summit community. For those attending the in-person event, we will work closely with the Hilton San Diego Bayfront to ensure a safe on-site environment. We will also continue to monitor the pandemic and keep presenters and registrants informed about the actions underway to ensure our health and safety. If risk elevates, we will be prepared to pivot to a virtual Summit as we did in 2020.

It's About Quality

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced us in 2020 to cancel the in-person Summit, we made the resolute decision to reimagine the gathering as a virtual learning experience characterized by the same quality and scope.

Our Summit Attendees Describe It Best

Attendees at the in-person 2019 Summit

- Absolutely awesome experience. I love the common focus around getting better at getting better.
- This is always a highlight of my professional year because I learn things that inform my every day practice.
- I love how this conference gets better every year. It's already so great ... but you still find a way to improve!

Attendees at the virtual 2020 Summit

- Amazing interactive virtual facilitation. I sincerely hope this remains the platform of choice!
- I really liked the combination of on-demand and live sessions. Would LOVE if future conferences had this ability as well.
- I absolutely loved having access to all the slide decks in one place, so instead of choosing between sessions, I can watch them all.
- Continue holding some kind of Summit online event post COVID-19 as I think it will improve equity and access significantly!

Features of the Hybrid 2021 Summit

For in-person attendees

- Full-day pre-conference courses
- Four thought-provoking keynotes
- Breakout sessions scheduled concurrently throughout the two days
- Poster gallery viewing
- Roundtable discussions and meetups organized by topics and affinity groups
- Networking receptions
- Subscription to the 2021 Summit Digital Library for on-demand viewing of all the sessions' recordings, slides, and resources

For remote attendees

- Live-streamed viewing of keynotes and breakout sessions
- Activity structures to facilitate remote engagement in breakout sessions
- Opportunities for virtual networking—meetups, coffee chats, and happy hours—by topics and affinity groups
- Viewing of pre-recorded poster presentations
- Subscription to the 2021 Summit Digital Library for on-demand viewing of all the sessions' recordings, slides, and resources

Our Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

In education, improvement science can drive equity reforms by providing a method for “seeing the system” that is producing inequitable results. Improvement science is a rigorous, structured approach to planning and implementing change, but to disrupt the systems and power structures that underlie inequitable outcomes, efforts must directly and explicitly address equity. Indeed, the confluence of events in our current moment has brought these persistent disparities into sharper relief for the nation as a whole. Therefore, in 2021, we will greatly expand on the one-third of Summit programming we typically devote to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

We will prioritize proposals that elevate underrepresented voices and feature work that has used improvement approaches to attack longstanding disparities by race/ethnicity or income in students' progress through school and educational attainment.

SESSION PRESENTATION PROPOSAL

We are seeking proposals for presentations that showcase the best efforts in the field and support all participants in their improvement journeys. Designed as a hybrid learning experience, we prefer that Summit presenters attend the in-person event at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront so that their presentations can be viewed live by our Summit in-person attendees and livestreamed by professional technicians to our remote attendees. However, given the uncertainty of these times, we will also consider proposals for remote presentations. As noted, we will monitor the pandemic regularly and keep presenters informed about preparations being put in place to ensure everyone's health and safety.

Toward this end, we invite proposals to present at the 2021 Summit that relate to one of the following Summit strands:

- Improvement Science in Practice
- Improvement Networks in Practice
- Leadership for Improvement

Improvement Science in Practice

Improvement science is an applied discipline that emphasizes innovation, rapid cycle testing in the field, and spread in order to generate learning about what changes work for whom and under what conditions. This strand seeks to illustrate improvement work in action that has resulted in better outcomes for students and communities. Presentations in this strand feature the methods that led to success along with concrete takeaways to inform others' improvement work.

New this year: Voices of School Improvers

The 2021 Summit hybrid format affords the opportunity to increase the presence of voices that are historically underrepresented at the Summit due to the time required to travel to the conference. For the 2021 program, we will prioritize within the Improvement Science in Practice strand sessions that engage the perspectives of school-based improvers, including teachers, students, administrators, counselors, or social workers.

For the **Improvement Science in Practice** strand, we seek proposals that address one or more of the following:

- Tell a story about a significant improvement (such as increased graduation rates) that positively impacted the lives of students through the use of improvement science. These proposals must include data and measurable results.
- Demonstrate the use of data and measurement to track progress against a well-specified aim or Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound (SMART) goal.
- Detail the application of a particular improvement method or tool, along with the results generated from its use.
- Surface the complexities of initiating or sustaining improvement efforts, including any learning from failures or when things did not go as planned.
- Describe how one or more of the six core improvement principles has been essential to the improvement.
- Describe how to successfully incorporate improvement science into day-to-day practice in schools.

Improvement Networks in Practice

Networks are a powerful strategy for accelerating our ability to learn and improve educational outcomes for all students. Carnegie's networked improvement community approach is defined by a focus on a specific problem, a common theory of improvement, and a practice of sharing measures and applying disciplined methods of improvement. This strand illustrates what is necessary to bring a network to life and support it in reaching its improvement goals.

For the **Improvement Networks in Practice** strand, we seek proposals that address one or more of the following:

- Share the story of how the networked approach accelerated the ability to learn and reach improvement goals.
- Surface the complexities of initiating or sustaining networked improvement communities, including any learning from "failures" or when things did not go as planned.
- Offer measures, tools, indicators, or practices that have been used to assess the network health and describe efforts to continually improve performance.
- Describe the development of analytic capabilities within hub teams and/or networks, such as data infrastructures and the use of data or evidence to inform networked learning strategies.
- Describe network structures, processes, or tools that foster effective collaboration and culture across members.
- Introduce strategies, tools, and technologies that allow for the spread of promising practices.
- Describe practices developed or used by hub teams to support members' learning by doing.
- Describe a network's perspective of its use of external supports or evaluation efforts that successfully bolstered the network's efforts.

Leadership for Improvement

Leadership plays a critical role in driving and supporting improvement. Leading improvement requires the ability to shift norms and habits that are deeply ingrained in the culture of educational enterprises. Transformational leaders are driven to break through the status quo and achieve new levels of performance.

For the **Leadership for Improvement** strand, we seek proposals that address one or more of the following:

- Tell the story of leadership's efforts to bring about or sustain systematic improvement across a school, district, region, or other enterprise; specific transformational aim(s); how the improvement principles shaped the pursuit of this transformation; and the results that were achieved.
- Describe how to consciously attend to the cultural conditions that enable the dispositions toward and active pursuit of continuous quality improvement in educational systems.
- Describe in detail the strategies to build improvement capability within systems, including how to introduce these ideas and deepen engagement over time and how to determine who needs what improvement skills.
- Describe how the use of measurement and data drive improvement and shift the culture from measurement for accountability to measurement for improvement.
- Explore the lessons learned from failures.
- Demonstrate federal, state, and/or local level policy that advances improvement science in education.
- Advocate for a policy environment that is hospitable to the ideas of improvement science and networks.

POSTER PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

The 2021 Summit hybrid experience will include both in-person and pre-recorded poster presentations. Poster presentations will be scheduled at the San Diego event during two in-person poster sessions beginning with a Welcome & Poster Reception on the first evening of the Summit. In addition, all poster presenters will be asked to pre-record a three to five minute presentation so that their work will also be accessible to remote attendees during the Summit. All poster PDFs and pre-recorded presentations will be catalogued in the Summit Digital Library for on-demand viewing post Summit.

The Summit poster application requires the following information: poster title, poster description, area of focus, aim/goal of the improvement work, data assessing progress toward the aim, and presenter information.

HOW TO APPLY

Review the important dates and logistics information below and submit your proposal online at www.carnegiefoundation.org/Summit2021. The program committee will review proposals and make selections in order to provide the most compelling program for our diverse community.

Important Dates

August 21, 2020 Proposal submission deadline
October 30, 2020 Notifications
April 25–27, 2021 Carnegie Foundation Summit on Improvement in Education

Questions

Please contact Kareen Yang,
yang@carnegiefoundation.org

Summit Logistics Information

Summit Registration

Up to two presenters per session will receive the Summit speaker registration rate of **\$695**. Poster presenters will be responsible for the standard Summit registration rate.

Travel and Lodging

All session and poster presenters are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements and expenses.

SESSION PRESENTATION PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

Thank you for your interest in presenting at the 2021 Carnegie Foundation Summit on Improvement in Education! The submission deadline is **Friday, August 21, 2020**. Below is a checklist to help you prepare your proposal. Please submit your proposal online via the Summit website at www.carnegiefoundation.org/SummitRFP.

Summit Program Strand

Select the strand below that best reflects your session topic:

- Improvement Science in Practice
 - *Please indicate if your proposal engages Voices of School Improvers*
- Improvement Networks in Practice
- Leadership for Improvement

Session Title

Limit your session title to 95 characters.

Session Abstract

Limit your session description to 100 words. If accepted, this content will inform the text to describe your session in the Summit program.

Session Delivery

Indicate which of the following delivery options you prefer:

- In-Person only
- Remote on Zoom platform only
- Either in-person or remote (depending on the pandemic situation)

Learning Objectives

List at least two learning objectives for your proposed session.

Area of Focus

Please select up to three areas of focus for your proposed session:

- Data and Measurement
- Educator Development
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Higher Education
- Improvement Capability
- Instruction and Assessment
- Spread and Scale
- Other: _____

Elaborated Session Description

Refer to the strand description and detail how your proposal addresses element(s) in that strand. Limit your response to 500 words.

Proposed Session Design

We encourage Summit session proposals that are designed for active attendee engagement for both Summit in-person and remote attendees. Examples of activities include case studies, simulations, hands-on activities, panel presentations, and discussions.

Please describe your session design and be sure to detail how the design and activities can be adapted for remote attendees. Limit your response to 200 words.

Session Length

Select the preferred length(s) for your proposed session: 60 or 75 minutes. This selection does not guarantee session length in the program.

Presenter Information

Name, job title, organization, email address, and phone number

Submitter Information

If the person submitting the proposal is different from the presenters listed above, please include their contact information as well.

POSTER PRESENTATION PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

Thank you for your interest in presenting a poster at the 2021 Carnegie Foundation Summit on Improvement in Education. The submission deadline is **Friday, August 21, 2020**. The following is a checklist for your proposal. Submit your proposal online via the Summit website at www.carnegiefoundation.org/SummitRFP.

- Poster Title**
Limit your poster title to 15 words.
- Poster Description**
Limit your poster description to 100 words. If accepted, this content will be used to describe your poster in the Summit program.
- Poster Delivery**
Indicate which of the following hybrid delivery options you prefer:
 - In-person only
 - Pre-recorded on Zoom only
 - Either in-person or pre-recorded (depending on the pandemic situation)
- Area of Focus**
Please select one area of focus for your proposed poster:
 - Data and Measurement
 - Educator Development
 - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
 - Higher Education
 - Improvement Capability
 - Instruction and Assessment
 - Spread and Scale
 - Other: _____
- Aim/Goal of the Improvement Work**
Limit your response to 100 words.
- Data Assessing Progress Toward the Aim**
Limit your response to 100 words.
- Poster Presenter Information**
Name, job title, organization, email address, and phone number