



A message from the

# Montessori Leaders Collaborative

## The Montessori Leaders Collaborative: Progress Made and a Call to Action

Our time has come.

After five years of work, the Montessori Leaders Collaborative (MLC) has laid the foundation for Montessori organizations in the United States to make an unprecedented impact in education for all children, through a strong, proactive and collective voice.

Members of the MLC came together because the Montessori movement offered high quality education programs, but it was clear it could benefit from support to better understand how to message the brand, coordinate communication efforts to promote the method, clearly articulate and define outcomes, increase collaboration amongst state and national organizations, and provide facilitation to help bring together an historically fragmented leadership. It was a list of daunting challenges, but the Montessori Leaders Collaborative proved it was up for the challenge.



Montessori Training Center of Minnesota

The result is a network of creative, engaged and empowered organizations that are working together to identify and act on strategic priorities that will bring the transformative power of Montessori to more children and communities, regardless of their background or economic status.

The progress made through the MLC includes:

### Organizational Collaboration

The MLC has fostered significant collaboration and collective work throughout the Montessori field. Through regular convenings and partnering opportunities, the MLC has created a more unified voice across Montessori providers and has found solid common ground.

### Unified Advocacy

Montessori providers, funders and other supporters have been able to advocate more effectively for policies benefitting children and communities, such as expanding access to the Montessori system through the [Montessori Public Policy Initiative \(MPPI\)](#) and teacher training and pipeline initiatives, such as [Teach Montessori](#).

## Collaborative Research

Increased collaboration throughout the Montessori field has also fostered new research initiatives to holistically measure student progress, document the developmental potential of Montessori learning environments, study what's working at exemplar Montessori centers and develop a framework for scaling Montessori programs in underserved communities. These initiatives include the [Montessori Census Project](#) and [Following the Family](#).



Montessori Leaders Collaborative at the MACTE Symposium, 2015

Now we are at a moment when the headwinds that have traditionally blown against child-centric education are turning in our favor. Parents and policymakers are turning against top-down, didactic and standardized education. They are seeking more personalized, holistic approaches that foster knowledge, know-how, confidence and creativity. All they need is assurance that ideal learning programs like Montessori are accessible to them, practical and effective. Montessori is in a position to offer substantive solutions. The MLC's next meeting is in December in Alexandria, Virginia, where we will be collectively addressing more issues related to professional development and research. Let's seize that opportunity and make greater progress together.

### We need to hear from you.

Help us refine and build on the work of the Montessori Leaders Collaborative by sending us questions and feedback via [info@montessorileaders.org](mailto:info@montessorileaders.org). This message is the first of a series of messages to you, Montessorians on the ground and across the country. We want to hear from you.

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