



April 15, 2019

Re: Letter of Affirmation – Innovation Credit #IN-24A

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2018 World Positive Education Accelerator for innovation credit #IN-24A.

In June 2018, over 800 people from over 30 countries gathered in Fort Worth, TX for four days to turn inspiration into action at the World Positive Education Accelerator (WPEA). Co-convened by Champlain College's David L. Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry (Cooperrider Center) and the International Positive Education Network (IPEN), the WPEA brought together, educators, students, parents, researchers, policy makers, business leaders, philanthropists, and foundations interested in accelerating education that, in addition to focusing on academic excellence, also imparts the tools and skills that enable wellbeing and human flourishing.

Positive Education unites the exciting new science of positive psychology and related disciplines with the study of education's most promising innovations to enable human flourishing and academic excellence as complementary aims of education. It believes in education of the head and the heart. Its goal is to equip people—students, teachers, school systems, and community partners—with the wellbeing skills and tools to flourish, and contribute to the flourishing of others, in ways that support and strengthen traditional learning.

Rigorous studies show that positive education can raise overall levels of curiosity; elevate love of learning; promote heightened engagement; create better learning outcomes; contribute to more thriving learning communities; build more elevated emotions such as hope, inspiration, and joy; generate increases in social intelligence and better relationships; lead to stronger career opportunity and success; support better health and decrease risky behaviors; open minds toward acceptance and inclusion of others; build leadership capacities; and serve as preventative and as a provider of better routes to treatment of depression, despair, or thoughts of suicide than anything pharmacologically.

On the first day of the WPEA, participants learned about research, applications, and innovations happening in education and in positive psychology today. On days 2-4, they used the appreciative inquiry summit methodology to elevate the strengths in the room, generate a vision for positive education's potential, and design and launch initiatives that will accelerate positive education around the globe.

The WPEA began to first truly take shape in 2016 when Champlain College received a \$1 million gift from the Stiller Family Foundation to support the Cooperrider Center's planning and convening of a Positive Education Summit that would use Appreciative Inquiry to accelerate positive education from early childhood on up. The Cooperrider Center then partnered with IPEN, the leading global network dedicated to the advancement of positive education around the globe.

In September 2017, Champlain College hosted the WPEA Steering Committee Meeting consisting of 105 members from 17 countries which included teachers, students, headmasters, researchers, CEOs, consultants, philanthropists, business leaders, and foundation. Over the next year, this group worked together to identify critical stakeholders that represent the whole system, engage those people and organizations, establish the overarching theme of the summit, determine necessary content, and structure summit processes to encourage generative actionable ideas. This culminated in the WPEA on June 25-28, 2018.

Sincerely,

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Stiller School of Business

Champlain College