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Vermont: @IDEA_VT

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Jackson: @IDEA_JXN

Minnesota: @IDEA_MN

National: @goodIDEAfolks

“The thing about it is that if you don't author your public story, others will, and they may not tell it in the way that you like - as many recent examples show.”

- Marshall Ganz

TELLING THE STORY

Organizers and educators working with IDEA over the last few years have said something like, “we're too busy making history to document it.” At the same time, there is wide agreement that the only way dominant narratives about education will change is if the stories of young people, educators, and communities are shared and powerfully amplified.

We've created storyteller roles for each of our place-based organizing teams and for our national efforts. Storytellers work with and listen closely to their team and are asked to focus on three primary responsibilities:

1) Telling small (and big) stories of contribution to change.

We know change in communities and complex systems is rarely the result of a simple linear equation. Rather than telling stories of attribution (aka: taking credit), we want to capture the small stories of change and to notice what happened and how. These learnings are the fuel of more learning.

2) Making critical connections.

Connecting the dots from local to national, between team members or from work inside schools to outside the school walls - a critical awareness of what's happening is a big part of the storyteller role.

3) Sharing stories through traditional, social, and other media.

Using tools, creativity, and good strategy, storytellers help make visible the powerful stories and learning of IDEA and all of our partners in change.

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