LEVELING THE LEARNING CURVE

CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND CONNECTED UNIVERSITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EdTech CEOs, And Leaders from Higher Ed, the UN, the World Bank, and YouTube Gather At Columbia to Discuss Equity and Inclusion in Post Covid Era

April 24th, 2023

NEW YORK, NY, USA - Leaders from edX, a 2U company, Coursera, World Bank, UNDP, PBS Learning Media, Google, YouTube, and the Open Society University Network will gather May 4th and 5th at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs to discuss post covid higher education and how digital tools can improve access and equity as part of the Leveling The Learning Curve conference and event.

"The stakes are high" explains NYT best-selling author Bill Eimicke, co-author of the Leveling The Learning Curve book, which will be launched at the conference. "We conducted interviews with 50 global digital education leaders to find out what works and what doesn't. We need to offer our students a better blend of in-person and online learning. This event will allow us to share real-world examples of how digital education can open the doors of learning to people now excluded."

The live event will feature filmed "town hall" style debates and discussions between top leadership of EdTech firms such as Chief Platform Officer, 2U and Founder of edX, Anant Agarwal, Coursera CEO Jeff Maggioncalda, David Avida of Engageli, Michael Malefakis of Emeritus, John Baker of d2l, leaders of national digital education programs of the country of Israel, and leaders of ground-breaking programs at Stanford, Michigan and UC Berkeley.

"The pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated existing inequities, particularly for marginalized and underrepresented communities" explains [Columbia's Senior Vice Provost Soulaymane Kachani](#). "But Covid has also opened the door to a new era of learning that higher education institutions should embrace in order to ensure that all students have equal access to education, resources, and support services".

The conference is jointly sponsored by [Columbia University](#), [The Teagle Foundation](#), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the [Open Society University Network](#). The event will be filmed with a professional crew "Ted Talk" style, and live streamed to a global audience. The event will also include questions and discussions with students, joining live in the room and virtually from places such as Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan and the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

"We felt it was critical to include students in this conversation," explains event [host Jilliene Rodriquez, SIPA's Dean of Diversity and Community Engagement](#). "Students are at the heart of education and no institution will be fully equipped to leverage the latest digital tools unless the needs of the learners are centered. We hope this intergenerational and cross discipline conversation will inspire a whole new generation of learners and leaders to work cooperatively to bolster deeper equity and the democratization of education more broadly."

Please visit our [website](#) or watch the [Leveling The Learning Curve Promo Video](#) to learn more.