

## Showcase instructions

What is a showcase library learning commons?

- A showcase LLC is a school that is ready to accept outside visitors to observe and discuss the contributions that your LLC makes to teaching and learning in your school.
- Your LLC exhibits cutting edge qualities represented in the LIIITES Model and other standards documents of your state, country, or international organization. Examples might include Future Ready Librarians initiatives, The AASL standards for school libraries, ISTE standards areas, P21 recognition, award winners of various professional associations, etc.

What kind of recognition would you receive?

- You would receive a certificate from The International Distinction Award for Excellence in the Library Learning Commons signed by the leadership of the LIIITES Model initiative.
- Because things change, the recognition would last for two school years and then you could re-apply.
- There is no cash award connected to this initiative, but being recognized internationally is a huge worth proclaiming.

How do you apply?

- Create a two or three page invitation to visit to outsiders that describes your LLC and its efforts to move toward the center of teaching and learning with cutting edge practices.
- Include pictures/videos, websites, documents, etc. as appropriate.
- Include your own instructions on how a person or group might schedule a visit to your LLC.
- You might also create a similar website like [Innovation Playlist](#) That has a group of one-page short description of a topic with accompanying videos.
- Send the application product to David Loertscher at [reader.david@gmail.com](mailto:reader.david@gmail.com)
- Recommend an expert close by who could visit your LLC and “certify” that you are ready for recognition and visitation. A member of the Cadre of this initiative might also visit or recommend someone to visit to do the certification.

Are you ready for a showcase?

- Since there is not one school exactly like another, there is no one way of creating and sustaining a LLC. Thus, an exact rubric is inappropriate.
- Describe the culture, curriculum, and student body characteristics that match the cutting edge recommendations of the LIIITES model along with various recommendations from district, state, or national standards. You should stress characteristics that make your LLC to the center of teaching and learning in the school.

- Since the crown jewel of any exemplary LLC is the cotaching of learning experiences with the faculty and the combination of content and LLC assets make a huge difference, we recommend that this be one of your central features.

A few cautions:

- While not the principal focus, will visitors recognize, when entering your facility, that you're NOT the "traditional library" with most of the floor space occupied by immovable bookshelves, heavy tables with those indestructible library chairs, banks of outdated and wired computers, little space for small groups to work and create artifacts for assignments, a card catalog still in use, and, of course, an outdated ambience? We jest, of course, but first impressions matter. Before and after pictures are quite appropriate in your application.
- Single cutting edge practices probably are not quite ready for showcasing. What does that mean? These are LLCs where a single initiate is well developed. Examples might include a great cutting edge reading program as a feature worthy of emulation. Or, a program of library instruction taught as a curriculum. Or, a very fancy facility where nothing much is actually happening.
- You might not be exemplary in every aspect of the LIIITES Model or standards document that you have adopted, but there are a variety of cutting edge practices happening that have some documentation and are worthy of emulation by visitors wanting to observe what a real 21st century LLC really looks like, feels like, and exudes appreciation by teachers and students.
- Visitors will want to come on a "regular day" when lots is happening so they can interact with teachers and students doing lots of things simultaneously.
- Visitors will want to meet with the professional staff, support staff, administrators, teachers, and students during their visit.