

TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHERS

by

THE DALAI LAMA CENTER FOR ETHICS AND TRANSFORMATIVE VALUES



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CENTER
FOR ETHICS
AND TRANSFORMATIVE VALUES

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Building W11, Suite 063
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139
T +1.617.324.6030 | E info@thecenter.mit.edu | W <http://thecenter.mit.edu>

TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHERS

teaching with transformative values

“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”
-Desmond Tutu-

THE DALAI LAMA CENTER FOR ETHICS AND TRANSFORMATIVE VALUES

(“The Center”) is dedicated to inquiry, dialogue, and education on the ethical and humane dimensions of life. The Center is a collaborative and nonpartisan think tank focusing on the development of interdisciplinary research and programs in varied fields of knowledge, from science and technology to education and international relations. Our programs emphasize responsibility and examine meaningfulness and moral purpose between individuals, organizations, and societies.

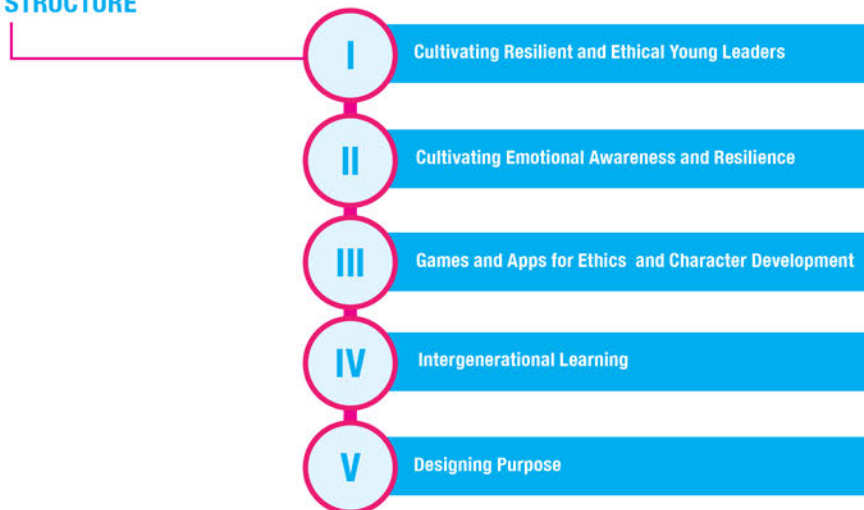
Six Nobel Peace Laureates have served as Founding Members of The Center since its inception at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2009.

TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHERS PROGRAM

Transformative Teachers program provides teachers and educators with the tools and methods for fostering resilient and ethical young leaders. We provide 5 workshop modules that progressively engage teachers in discussion, introspection and experimentation, and provide them with the skills to integrate the development of cognitive skills, social-emotional understanding, and ethical purpose, enabling them to make a profound and lasting impact on their students.

The program supports two of The Center’s ongoing core programs to develop ethics and values based leadership among youth: Young Peace Leaders focuses on elementary and middle school aged children, and Compassionate Young Leaders on young adults in high school and university.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE



THE EXPERIENCE

Transformative Teachers provides a unique opportunity for teachers and educators to come together for interactive workshops and to foster continued dialogue and community through online forums and annual gatherings. Additional technological aids, developed by the program, support continued growth through critical reflective thinking.

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AUGMENTED BY TECHNOLOGY

The Center helps design, develop and disseminate innovative tools for learning. These tools include the integration of games and apps that focus on building ethical decision-making skills and moral literacy, such as Quandary and MITRA, into the classroom. During the workshop, we look at support materials available on the web and discuss extension ideas such as teacher-and-player-created scenarios and player-feedback reviews. Through a constructive analysis of the concepts and design of the games and apps, we ask: Why choose the dilemmas that are featured? Why was it set in such context? What roles do incentives and scoring play? How can we encourage further discussion and reflection? And, what ethical theories underpin these technological playing systems tools?

By providing teachers with technological playing systems the workshop encourages teachers to promote ethical thinking within different environments and contexts –both fictional and non-fictional. The goal is to provide an engaging experience for students to strengthen foundational skills and character virtues – including perspective-taking, decision-making, and critical thinking. Moreover, helping them to recognize and engage ethical and emotional situations in their daily lives.

Additionally The Center has created Transformative Teachers Collection on PBS LearningMedia™, a web resource constantly being updated with new teaching exercises and activity videos.

DESIGNED FOR GLOBAL REACH

The Transformative Teachers program is currently offered in various regions throughout the United States, as well as Mexico, Colombia and India.

“ This is the kind of education, the kind of conversation that is incredibly important: to listen to what is really important in life about values, about human characteristics... This day has been amazing to getting back to what is really important in the core of being human, connecting with others, growing passion within everybody, no matter what their age.”

Kelly Connelly, Elementary School Teacher, Natick, Massachusetts

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Modular Learning: A Summary

By creating interactive workshops that engage teachers in discussion, introspection, and experimentation, Transformative Teachers trains teachers to integrate the development of cognitive skills, social-emotional understanding, and ethical purpose, enabling teachers to make a profound and lasting impact on their students.

MODULE I: Cultivating Resilient and Ethical Young Leaders

- Explore the influence of core values and vision on teaching practices and leadership development for students;
- Introduce and demonstrate activities for cultivating empathy, self-awareness, emotional understanding and clarity of values inside and outside the classroom;
- Establish a growing community of teachers committed to the development of resilient and ethical young leaders;
- Develop a plan for sustained activities at the participants' respective schools.
- Establish a growing community of teachers committed to cultivating of resilience and ethics among students.

MODULE II: Cultivating Emotional Awareness and Resilience

- Explore the influence of emotional states in day-to-day decision-making processes;
- Explore setting emotional tone(s) that prove most conducive to learning and wellbeing, [inside and outside the classroom;]
- Explore the correlation between emotions and values;
- Gather insights into the taxonomy of emotions;
- Establish a growing community of teachers committed [to] cultivating of resilience and ethics among students;
- Develop a plan for sustained activities at the participants' respective schools.

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MODULE III: Games and Apps for Ethics and Character Development

- Develop confidence in using new technological playing systems
- Provide knowledge of support material
- Explore research and frameworks used for the games and apps
- Discuss insight into the design and use of learning games and apps

MODULE IV: Intergenerational Learning

- Translating Oral Wisdom
- Future of Storytelling: Tools and Methodologies
- One Heart, Four Hands: A hands-on learning experience

MODULE V: Designing Purpose

- Evaluating Role of Purpose and Sense-making
- Exploring Living a Life of Alignment
- Reigniting Motivation and Meaning
- Evaluating A Personal Mission for Happiness

Professional Development Points (PDPs) are available for each module upon completion of the program, which includes the workshops, two in-classroom activities with students and two written reflection papers.

SPARK: A Celebration and A Catalyst

Students and teachers who have gone through the program are invited to take part in SPARK, a gathering to celebrate their learning and accomplishments. There, students showcase their ideas and projects to peers and teachers. In addition to fun and fellowship, the gathering also brings wisdom and inspiration of Nobel laureates, world leaders and thinkers serves as a catalyst for youth leadership providing much needed guidance and strength.

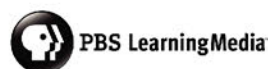
Students can continue conversations generated through SPARK and Transformative Teachers and ask questions of other students and mentors on the peer-curated online forum by the same name.

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Partners



PROJECT ZERO
at Harvard University



Regional Partners

City of Birmingham | Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education | Eagle County Schools (Colorado US) | EBC (Mexico) | Universidad del Rosario (Colombia) | FURHHDL (India) | BRAC (Africa)

Transformative Teachers is part of Compassionate Young Leaders and Young Peace Leaders Programs at The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values.



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