THIRTY UNDER 30 at LEARNING

30 Young Professionals Leading the Future of Learning & Work

Produced by LEARNING 2020
There are a number of reasons why I am excited to be part of the team managing the Learning Conference. Near the top of the list is having the opportunity to support the Thirty Under 30 Program.

This unique program has been an incubator of leadership in our industry for over a decade. Each year, the program recognizes thirty young professionals that embody the knowledge, skills, and drive needed by today’s modern learning leaders. There are over 300 alumni from the Thirty Under 30 program, many of whom have continued to grow in their careers and become essential learning leaders for the organizations they serve. The members of this year’s cohort will continue to build upon that impressive body of work.

I’ve had the pleasure of spending time with this year’s group and am extremely impressed with the knowledge and skills they have already developed in their careers. More importantly, I appreciate the energy and desire to share that they bring to their discussions.

This book introduces you to each member of the Thirty Under 30 cohort for 2020. I encourage you to reach out and connect with each of them. As you do, you will see similarities among the group, including their desire to give back, their passion for their work, and their ambition to grow personally and professionally. The more time I spend with this year’s cohort, the more one thing becomes clear: The future is in good hands.

Please join me and the entire Learning Guild team in congratulating this year’s Thirty Under 30 cohort. We couldn’t be more honored to host and support this group of young leaders.

David Kelly
Executive Director
The Learning Guild
Leading the first virtual Thirty Under 30 program has been a challenge we didn’t expect. We have been talking about the possibility of facilitating the cohort together since Learning 2019 ended. Though most of our ideas for bonding activities have been scrapped and reworked for a virtual setting (trust falls are, understandably, frowned upon in these times), we hope that the virtual experience will be as meaningful to this year’s cohort as it was for us.

The thirty individuals that we have been so privileged to spend time with over the last few weeks are well deserving of this honor and opportunity. Things are different this year, and you won’t be able to flag down that eager person with the big badge on their nametag in between sessions. We encourage you to take some extra time to seek out the people with the Thirty Under 30 banners around their avatar images. We promise it will be worth your while.

Hannah & Megan

Hannah Duffy (she/her/hers) is the LMS specialist at the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. She is a member of the Learning 2019 Thirty Under 30 cohort and supported the first Thirty Under 30 program at Learning Technologies 2020 in London. Her interests include maternal, child, and reproductive health education, education in complex emergencies, and financial literacy.

Megan Underwood (she/her/hers) is a passionate educator and learning designer with over 12 years of experience teaching and instructing everyone from children aged 4, to adults aged 60+, including people with disabilities. She is part of the Learning 2019 Thirty Under 30 cohort. She has a keen interest in how people learn and how it can better be supported by technology. She has developed and supported learning programs for universities, governments, nonprofits and companies around the world.
Dalia Abbas is an instructional designer working on developing career-track courses for Springboard, an education-based company. She was born and raised in California but moved to Egypt with her family at age 17. She attended the American University in Cairo, and worked in academia in Cairo, Istanbul, Guangzhou, and Silicon Valley. She completed a master’s at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Prior to Springboard, Dalia created customer-facing learning content for Zendesk. She currently works remotely from Bologna, Italy. She is an avid runner, and a lifestyle and food blogger.
Margaux Arieta is a training program manager at HubSpot, located in Boston, MA. She specializes in legal and compliance training topics. Prior to joining HubSpot, Margaux worked as a training specialist for a government contractor creating system training videos for government clients such as NASA and HRSA. Margaux developed her passion for learning and development through an internship in the L&D department at the Discovery Channel. Margaux has a BA in psychology and a master’s in business analysis.
Troy Ashman is a learning experience designer at Qantas Airways. He develops effective, result-focused digital learning experiences that leverage innovation, design, and technology. He began his L&D career in 2014 whilst working for a cruise line in Newcastle, Australia. He has an advanced diploma in training design & development from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and a graduate certificate in eLearning with the University of New England (Australia). He is constantly looking to push the boundaries of traditional platforms to create a truly engaging digital learning experience.
Sarah Azhar is a learning experience designer currently working at JetBlue Airlines in NYC. She just recently graduated from New York University where she obtained her master’s degree in digital media design for learning. She’s passionate about virtual reality and researching how it can be realistically incorporated in training programs. In her free time, Sarah loves finding street art in the city and dog watching.
Chris Barrera is an experienced learning and development professional, driven to enable the Kellogg sales organization to achieve its growth objectives by designing, developing, and facilitating learning solutions. He joined Kellogg’s in 2014, starting as a Kellogg sales rep in Houston, Texas. Prior to joining Kellogg’s, Chris led a customer service team at HEB focused on providing best-in-class customer service. Chris holds a bachelor’s in marketing and a masters of business administration from the University of Houston.
Christine is an Instructional Designer at KPMG, recognized consistently as a top-performing learning and development organization with a new training facility, Lakehouse, in Florida. Named a 2020 Emerging Leader by Training Magazine and a Thirty Under 30 learning and development professional at the Learning 2020 conference, Christine designs and develops learning experiences for KPMG Business School. Christine supports learners ranging from professionals just starting their careers to senior-level professionals moving into advanced leadership roles. She has a diverse skillset and experience designing and developing in-person, digital, and blended learning solutions.
Gwendoline Calmels is a French learning professional living in Ireland who aspires to become a learning experience designer. For the past three years she has been a learning specialist at Allianz Partners. She is currently doing a three-month virtual job swap at Allianz headquarters in Munich where she is working to redesign the corporate academy. In her spare time Gwendoline volunteers with Design by Humanity as an Agile coach and contributor, collaborating on learning projects advocating for equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism.
Valerie Chan is an industrial-organizational psychology practitioner. She has worked in L&D for nearly three years, with a focus on eLearning implementation. She earned her masters from Montclair State University in 2018 and joined AlphaSights, an industry research platform, shortly after. She’s driven high-impact solutions for employee onboarding, performance management, leadership development, training effectiveness, and most recently, the digital transformation of AlphaSights’ learning strategy. Her primary career objective is to bridge the gap between science and practice to improve employees’ workplace experiences.
Elaine Cheng (she/her/hers) is a lifelong learner and dedicated learning designer. She recently transitioned from a program coordinator for the Mayor’s Youth Employment and Education Program, where she spent the past two years creating and facilitating job readiness training to over 200 underserved youth to become the youngest workforce in San Francisco. Now she is a learning designer contractor for partner enablement at Salesforce. As a budding instructional designer, she aspires to create engaging, interactive, and social learning experiences that can improve productivity and motivation in and outside of work.
Monipha Davis is currently working as a multimedia training developer at FIS Global. She was previously a special education teacher at both the elementary and middle school level. In 2019, Monipha graduated from the University of South Florida with a master’s degree in instructional technology, and graduate certification in eLearning design and development. Following graduation, she joined the learning department at FIS and began working on various projects, including building training courses and leading the internship program for the innovation and design department.
Bria Dimke is a native of Fargo, ND. She obtained her BA from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, majoring in psychology and medicine. After graduation she created content for regional non-profit organizations. In 2017 she moved to Munich to pursue an MSc at Ludwig Maximilian University. While there she worked as a medical education researcher and co-authored a book on resiliency. In 2019, she began working at Allianz's global headquarters, focusing on strategic workforce planning, upskilling, reskilling, and the deployment of a new learning experience platform for Allianz.
Michelle Gao has been with Danaher Corporation for six years and is currently global leadership development manager at Danaher Corporate. Michelle owns the Maximizing Leadership Performance (MLP) program for leaders of leaders, and manages Danaher’s partnership with Harvard Business School Online. Michelle is passionate about associate and leader development and empowerment; experiential learning; and partnering with the rest of the business to create common-sense processes and solutions. Michelle holds a BS in accountancy and a master’s in human resources and industrial relations, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.
Marissa Hatch is a learning leadership development specialist at PepsiCo. Prior to her current position, she held functional learning, onboarding, selection, and recruiting roles in the consumer packaged goods (CPG), professional services, and insurance industries. Marissa studied organizational psychology at Michigan State University, and psychology and communicology at the University of Hawaii. Originally from Hawaii, Marissa currently resides in Dallas with her husband and two dogs.
Michael Ioffe is the founder of Arist, the first text message learning platform. Arist helps Fortune 500 companies rapidly teach and train employees via text message-based courses, which are remarkably accessible and frictionless. Prior to founding Arist, Michael was the founder of TILE.org. With over 450 locations in 50 countries, TILE.org is one of the world’s largest entrepreneurship education non-profits. Michael is currently on leave from Babson College.
Tony Jones is a passionate educator with a zest for learning and development. He spent 10+ years in contact centers before transitioning into L&D. He is currently employed as a facilitator for Career Team LLC. Tony earned both a master of science in global eLearning and a master of education in educational technology leadership from Texas A&M University–Commerce. When he’s not creating curriculum or other learning experiences, Tony enjoys traveling, cooking, and giving back to the community through volunteerism. He thrives on being able to empower others to empower themselves to reach their goals.
Paige Kracke is a content curation enthusiast, explorer of new technologies, and lifelong learner from Portland, OR. Paige currently serves as the manager of curation at OpenSesame, an eLearning content provider devoted to developing the world's most productive and admired workforces. She has a half decade of experience creating training programs for enterprise-level organizations and curating eLearning content for a global audience. Paige earned her bachelor’s degree in economics from Tufts University.
Kyle Scott LeMontang helps Fortune 500 clients implement, grow and manage their corporate L&D technology stack. Providing direct consultation and client support, Kyle works strategically with corporate executive and key stakeholders to drive tangible ROI benefits through implementation of the most appropriate, innovative, and bespoke training technologies, across the entire corporate employee journey. He has a passion for technology, a love for serving clients, and a determination to provide an unparalleled user-experience for learners. In his free time, Kyle likes being outside and soaking up all Miami has to offer.
Carina Martin (she/her/hers) is a data and analytic L&D program manager at Slalom consulting. For the past decade, she has built and supported learning programs for non-profits, government, startup, and tech companies. She is especially excited to explore how innovative and technical learning experiences can be leveraged to empower others.
Olivia Mytrowitz is a passionate training and enablement specialist with experience personally training and building enablement programs for 1,000+ big tech professionals from around the world. As the manager for services go-to-market readiness at Adobe, she enables the sales field and the action team lead for Adobe NYC, giving Adobe employees the knowledge and resources to volunteer and fundraise in the community. She believes each person has something unique, special, and important inside and is dedicated to creating learning environments where those qualities can flourish.
Mudassir Nagaria

Digital Experience Production Partner
Emirates Airline & The Learning Astronaut

Mudassir Mohd is passionate about creating and facilitating blended learning experiences, with a focus on digital innovation and mobile learning. He is a digital experience production partner at Emirates Airline, located in Dubai, U.A.E, along with running his own consultancy, The Learning Astronaut. Prior to joining Emirates, Mudassir worked in human resource development at The HCMS, creating training experiences for public and private sector clients such as Ferrari World Abu Dhabi and Saudi ARAMCO. Mudassir has completed internships in advisory services at PwC and ATOS SE.
Jacob Payne is the senior corporate trainer at PrimeLending. He thrives on helping people develop skills, enhance knowledge, and enrich organizations through learner-centric designs and people-centric delivery. He successfully guides learners through a journey of awareness, knowledge, skill, and mastery. As chief of staff for the Association of Talent Development in Dallas, Jacob ensures chapter members receive access, recognition, and expertise with local and national resources. While learning and development is his primary job by day, Jacob enjoys hosting games nights with friends and finding the best margaritas in Dallas.
Natalie Perez has worked in L&D for almost 10 years. She is currently a senior instructional designer and program manager at Amazon. Previously she directed the distance eEducation program at a community college within the University of Hawaii, and also served as the online learning & support coordinator at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu. She is currently completing her PhD in learning design and technology at the University of Hawaii–Mānoa. Natalie helps the underserved in her community through a non-profit, sports-related program she created called Wahine ‘Ike Loa.
Megan Reynolds is currently a learning experience designer for Salesforce, where she designs training in the onboarding journey to foster exceptional selling. A former K-12 teacher, Megan recognized her passion for lifelong learning. She completed her masters in instructional design and is working on her doctorate in educational sciences. Fueled by her diverse background in learning facilitation, design, and research, she aspires to transform the corporate learning industry by creating more engaging, memorable, and authentic learning experiences. She resides in Kentucky with her husband.
Ashlynn Rutherford (she/her/hers) is a learning producer at Southwest Airlines. She has been part of the Southwest family for over four years after graduating from Texas A&M University. She is passionate about creating effective learning experiences that improve the performance of people and solve business problems. She has developed and supported training initiatives for a variety of programs at Southwest, including software implementation for the customer service and technical operations departments. In her free time she enjoys hiking, traveling, and playing pickleball.
Ashley Scales was born in Brooklyn and currently resides in Jersey City, NJ. She works as a senior learning instructor at Paychex, Inc. She has a strong background in human resources, with more than five years of experience in recruiting, consulting, and L&D. Ashley holds a master’s degree in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of Hartford and is currently in her final year of a PhD program at Capella University. Her studies involve organizational development, successful training/learning transfer and motivation to transfer, and training effectiveness.
Kaitlyn Solotes is proud to have helped build the award-winning learning & development team at Procore. Over the past four years, she has built and delivered a number of talent development programs including professional development, new hire orientation, and management training. She is currently responsible for L&D at Procore’s second-largest and fastest-growing office in Austin, TX. She is passionate about learning in tech and utilizing business acumen to create authentic learning experiences. She lives in Austin with her newly adopted puppy and fiancé.
Keiko Takeshita is a program analyst for the Department of Homeland Security. She is responsible for providing learning and development opportunities that members of the workforce can use to improve their day-to-day skills and advance their careers. To address the needs of remote workers, she has made it a priority to make training more accessible and enjoyable. She received her bachelor’s degrees in psychology and criminology from the University of Idaho, and her master’s degree in terrorism and homeland security policy from American University.
Implementing learning in the flow of work is something Thomas van Kerkhof does every day for different companies. Thomas works as a learning and performance consultant for Xprtise, the leading consultancy company developing innovative workflow learning and performance support solutions in the Netherlands and US. He has been working in the field since 2014. He has trained high-school students, teachers, and has designed, developed, and implemented several company-specific learning solutions as an instructional designer.
Michael Wildman is an associate manager and program designer at Olive Tree Arts Network (OTAN), a youth-arts non-profit based in Chicago. The programs he develops at OTAN use art and creativity as catalysts to help young students cultivate compassion and inclusivity in their everyday lives. Besides building learning experiences for students, Michael also heads learning and development initiatives for employees and oversees the onboarding program for new hires. He is currently completing a master of science in instructional design and learning technology at University of Wisconsin–Whitewater.
Jiao Zou is a senior learning designer at Workday. She is also a certified project manager and ScrumMaster (PMP®, CSM®). Prior to her position at Workday, she designed learner-centered and results-driven learning solutions for renowned organizations such as Facebook, the United Nations, New York University, and Udemy. Jiao has a master’s degree in instructional technology and media from Columbia University. She is passionate about taking an Agile approach to design meaningful learning experiences that empower people and help move organizations forward.
Learning leadership starts at Learning 2020, the premier event for learning leaders. The event focuses on exploring the most critical themes in learning leadership today, providing individuals the tools they need to better serve the organizations they lead. Catering to senior leaders, those who aspire to become great leaders, and everyone in between, Learning 2020 has the people, content, and community you’re looking for.

Over the past 10 years, the Thirty Under 30 program has welcomed participants from more than 150 organizations, including Accenture, American Red Cross, CDC, Ernst & Young, Farmers Insurance, Google, Hilton Worldwide, LinkedIn, NBCUniversal, Procter & Gamble, SAP, Square, The Boeing Company, The Kellogg Company, Twitter, Verizon Wireless, Wegmans, and many more.