



# The Future of Learning

pathways to new learning flows

## Envision the future. Chart insights. Build pathways.

Learning is breaking out of traditional institutional environments and becoming embedded in everyday settings and interactions. The diffusion of connective and mobile technologies coupled with proliferation of open content is enabling a new ecology in which learning is best conceived as a flow that learners freely dip into and out of. This transformation—from educational institutions to learning flows—is profound and disruptive, and no existing institution will have the luxury of remaining unchanged. Such transformation calls on educational institutions, learners, and our society as a whole to challenge the assumptions, structures, and principles that have worked thus far.

Institute for the Future (IFF) has been at the leading edge of education research for the last decade, identifying drivers of change, prototyping new types of learning practices and tools, and mapping the learning ecology of the future. Using our research and process tools we help organizations prepare for the new world of learning: anticipate the changes ahead, develop scenarios for their own future, and create roadmaps that will guide their actions in shaping a more desirable future for their stakeholders.

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INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

FROM EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

to learning flows

This snapshot of our map of the future learning ecology provides a high-level overview of the future stories that will define the next decade of learning, and the work skills needed to thrive in that environment. Surrounding the future stories are signals: present-day examples that serve as signposts pointing toward the future. The IFTF Future of Learning Team can help you understand the foresight in these future stories and work skills to draw out the insights and actions that will keep your organization relevant in the coming decade. For our full research body and map please visit [iftf.org/learning](http://iftf.org/learning).



**Yelp Monocle:**  
App providing location-specific information on iPhone or iPad.

**Embedded and Embodied Learning**

Information migrates from the classroom to the real world, embedding learning into the flow of everyday experiences—from walking down the street, to riding a bus, to sitting at home or in a park.



**Leafsnap:**  
Smithsonian Institution app to identify tree and plant species from photos of their leaves.

Social Intelligence

**Human Software Symbiosis**

Smart machines and software extend our human capabilities, enabling us to accomplish previously unimaginable tasks, be it in the operating room or the classroom.



[interaxon.ca/muse](http://interaxon.ca/muse)

**Interaxon Muse:**  
Bluetooth-enabled headset for direct monitoring of brain activity and a neural interface platform to connect with other devices.



[surgeonsim2013.com](http://surgeonsim2013.com)

**Surgeon Simulator 2013:**  
Virtual reality game helping surgeons improve their craft.

**New Foundations**

Information, learning, connections, and reputations flow through a new set of organizations and platforms that function as modern-day utilities.



[readwrite.com](http://readwrite.com)

**Amazon Cloud Drive:**  
Web storage application for photos, videos, documents, and other digital files.

Cross-cultural Competency

Transdisciplinary

New Media Literacy

Novel & Adaptive Thinking

Computational Thinking

**Content Commons**

Content becomes readily available to people around the world as a tidal wave of open digital materials—text, simulations, video, and new learning tools—flood the internet.



[n1tr0g3n.com](http://n1tr0g3n.com)

**Codecademy:**  
Platform for teaching and learning how to code.

**Socialstructured Work**

Distinct models for work emerge as large networks of people start to unbundle tasks into smaller and smaller units, generating a new kind of wealth, and new skills for building productive and fulfilling lives.

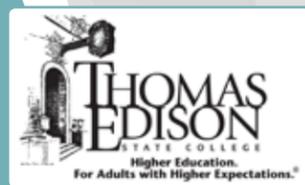


[tinywork.wordpress.com](http://tinywork.wordpress.com)

**Mechanical MOOC:**  
Online programming courses that combine the powers of open courseware, study communities, and platforms for learning.

**Global Learning Arbitrage**

A new generation of players—unencumbered by legacy systems—create new pathways for obtaining a college degree (or its equivalent), certification, and accreditation.



[www2.dcc.com](http://www2.dcc.com)

**Thomas Edison State College:**  
Virtual college that banks credits for correspondence courses from accredited U.S. universities.

Sense-Making

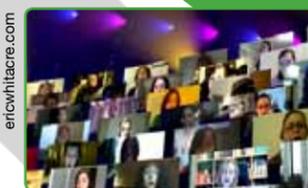
Design Mindset

Cognitive Load Management



[www.boundless.com](http://www.boundless.com)

**Boundless:**  
Open education resource for building textbooks.



[erowhitacre.com](http://erowhitacre.com)

**Virtual Choir:**  
Musical compositions integrating submissions by a global crowd.



[wired.com](http://wired.com)

**TaskRabbit:**  
Platform for outsourcing small jobs and tasks to local individuals.

Virtual Collaboration

# Host a Learning Pathways Workshop Today

**How can you use foresight to gain insights that will enable you to make better, more impactful decisions today?**

Building on ideas from the Future of Learning research, IFTF has developed a provocative workshop process that will help you design and prototype new impactful offerings for the coming decade. Our Learning Pathways Workshop will immerse your organization in the future and help you build new pathways toward greater resilience and innovation.

## Our forecasting and facilitation can help your organization

- **Think** broadly to gain an “outside-in” perspective on long-term forces and trends shaping the future
- **Anticipate** opportunities for new impact and service offerings
- **Gain** agile positioning by questioning your assumptions and systematically considering alternative futures
- **Jump-start** strategic thinking by immersing you in future possibilities and identifying flexible long-term actions
- **Prototype** new offerings that leverage your expertise while aligning with the future

## Sample Agenda

### MORNING SESSION

#### Envisioning the Future

##### Deep dive into the Future of Learning

IFTF researchers will give you a tour of the Future of Learning map, *From Educational Institutions to Learning Flows*, unpacking the big future stories, supporting signals from the present, and provocative tensions relevant to your organization.

##### Engaging the Second Curve

We will bring in several of the most compelling and bright social innovators from our network to present and describe their projects, ethos, and methods in an interactive session to draw greater insights from on-the-ground stories of futures in action.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

#### Building the Future

##### Futures Bootcamp

Think of this as a bootcamp for new ways to get things done in the next decade. Working in small groups and paired with experts, we will identify, experiment, and get our hands dirty with leading-edge tools for shaping a learning environment. Expect surprises and creative chaos in this immersive crash-course on future learning experiences.

##### Second-Curve Prototypes

Working with creative future templates, we will make our scenarios come to life, and create, together with your team, an IFTF specialty: provocative artifacts from the future. These Second-Curve artifacts from the future will inform your strategy and action steps you can take today, as well as in the near future.

### Future of Learning Team



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### About the Institute for the Future

The Institute for the Future is an independent, non-profit research organization based in Silicon Valley, California. We have a 45-year track record of pioneering tools and methods for building foresight—indeed, we are the world’s first and oldest organization dedicated to bringing the skills and benefits of future forecasting to the public.

