



EQUITY IMMERSION

The Power of Us: Storytelling for Just & Joyful Schools

Thursday, November 20, 2025 • Hyatt West Tower

The Power of Us will be felt throughout the 2025 Equity Immersion. This unique professional development opportunity will allow school leaders to explore the narratives that define their districts and shape their communities.

9:30 a.m.

Check-In, Coffee, and Networking

10 a.m.

Introduction by Maryam Brotine, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Services, IASB

How Do We Listen and What do we Hear? with Jennie Moreau

10:20 a.m.

Opening Keynote —

The Power of Story by Voice of Witness

How do you harness the power of the story? At Voice of Witness (VOW), an oral history nonprofit amplifying the voices of people impacted by injustice, storytelling is a powerful tool for connection, resistance, advocacy, and learning. This talk will cover VOW's principles for ethical storytelling and how they ensure our ability to listen deeply and share impactful narratives in a responsible, respectful way. Particularly in times of enormous upheaval and ideological division, creating "safe and brave" spaces for communities to share their stories provides opportunity for healing, enlightening, and vital experiences.

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Workshops

Workshops

Attendees will be split into two groups, with half attending Workshop A and half attending Workshop B.

Workshop A: Practices for Ethical Storytelling in Your Districts and Communities by Voice of Witness

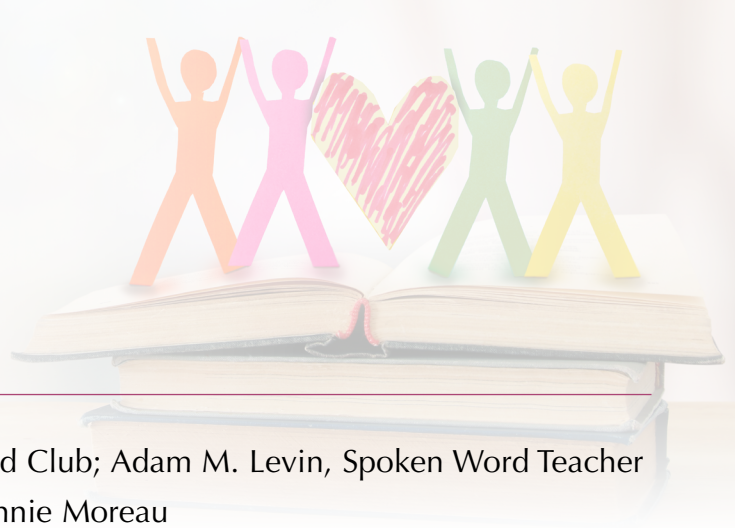
In this session, we will discuss the benefits of oral history as a pedagogical tool for teaching and learning both academic and socio-emotional skills. Building on the Voice of Witness methodology for ethics-driven storytelling, participants will engage in a variety of oral history activities that can be adapted to their classrooms, districts, and communities. Participants will have the opportunity to explore multiple student projects, generating ideas around how oral history may work in their classrooms, staff rooms, and board rooms.

Workshop B: Data-Based Storytelling for Social Justice by ISBE and IASB

During the first part of this workshop, representatives from the Illinois State Board of Education will lead participants on an investigation of the data underlying the Equity Journey Continuum (EJC) measure that appears on all Illinois school district annual report cards. During the second part of this workshop, board members will analyze the stories behind their EJC data using the Storytelling for Social Justice framework to move beyond stock, stereotypical stories and uncover the concealed stories and resistance stories truly at play.

Plus! Vendor Displays

Explore organizations offering services and resources to support your diversity, equity, and inclusion needs.



1-1:45 p.m.

Lunch (included) and **Performance** by Oak Park and River Forest High School Spoken Word Club; Adam M. Levin, Spoken Word Teacher
ACTivating Tools for Sending and Receiving with Jennie Moreau

1:50-3:20 p.m.

Workshops

Please attend the workshop you did not attend earlier.

3:20-3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Closing Keynote and Interactive Session: Future Power with Jennie Moreau

4:30-5 p.m.

Dessert, Networking, and IASB Storytellers Booth

Sponsor Table Vendors



Donation provided by



Limited seats available! Registration fee \$299 (Includes morning coffee, lunch, and afternoon dessert)

The IASB Equity Immersion is only available to individuals registered for the 2025 Joint Annual Conference.

District administrators and roster managers can register a single individual or multiple members of their district through the Conference Group Registration process.

Individual school board members should contact their district administrator to register for Equity Immersion.

Note: Equity Immersion attendees may want to consider a Wednesday night reservation at a Conference hotel to arrive in time for Thursday morning.

Additional information and registration at [Equity Immersion | IASB](#)