



# GEM-T

## A Global Education Model for Transformation

*Transforming Schools to a 21st Century Model that Develops World Class Learners*

**It's Time for Change.** In the global digital economy, our old paradigm for education no longer works. Our graduates are poorly prepared for success in today's world. Author and University of Oregon Professor Yong Zhao says,



*"The traditional education paradigm may have worked before but is no longer adequate for the changed world. [Its] outcomes are precisely the opposite of the talents we need for a new era. It is the wrong bet for our children's future."*

A new paradigm is needed to transform the way schools operate in the changed world. To address this, KNS and Duke University have combined their 20+ years' experience in advanced pedagogy to create GEM-T, a 21st century transformational model for developing world class learners.

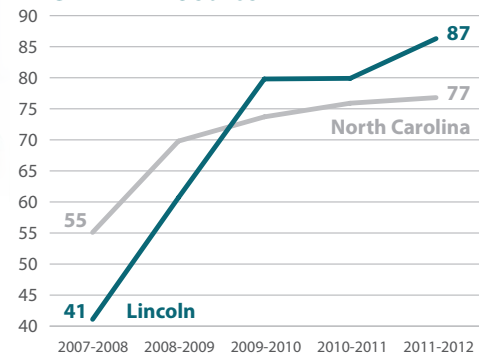
New-paradigm schools are dramatically different from traditional schools. Early evidence shows their deeper learning solves many of the problems encountered in schools, and the model clears up key misconceptions paralyzing school reform efforts. These new schools discard the static, reductionist, test-based culture hobbling most schools around the globe and replace it with a culture of:

- 1. High Expectations.** Expectations about students and teachers are raised to the gifted level on measures of (1) deep academic skills; (2) 21st century skills (creativity, collaboration), (3) passion to learn and succeed; and (4) global competence and entrepreneurial skills.
- 2. Authenticity.** Teachers collaboratively craft highly engaging, problem-based and project-based curricula. Students' learning experiences are relevant, rigorous, personalized and in tune with students' natural cognitive, social, emotional and creative drives.
- 3. Connectivity.** Schools collaborate with business professionals, NGOs, government agencies, universities, other "real world" organizations and with other schools around the globe.
- 4. Innovation.** Educators embrace technology tools, learn to innovate and adopt continuous improvement processes.

The stakes are extremely high. McKinsey ([is.gd/McKinsey](http://is.gd/McKinsey)) has estimated that school improvement at the level of Lincoln Elementary (see above, right) would **add about \$3 trillion - or 20% - to the U.S. economy.** Similar benefits should accrue to states that adopt highly effective 21st century models like GEM-T.



### GEM-T Results



Average of End-of-Grade 5th grade reading, math and science scores for Lincoln Elementary School, Leland, NC, versus the state of North Carolina. Lincoln applied Duke's Bright IDEA pedagogy for these five years. During this period, the proportion of economically disadvantaged students at Lincoln went from 70% to 89% and non-white students rose from 52% to 63%.

### Benefits of GEM-T Schools

- Enhanced intelligent behaviors and academic performance
- Increased enthusiasm for learning
- Student global awareness
- Clearly defined "roadmap" for transformation
- Highly developed digital skills
- Increased student creativity and entrepreneurial spirit
- Reduced student alienation, social problems and absenteeism
- Higher teacher job satisfaction
- Improved student/parent/teacher relationships
- Projected community and national economic benefits



*"Parents tell us their child comes home wanting to go to the library and do research; **they want to build things, they are so much more creative...***

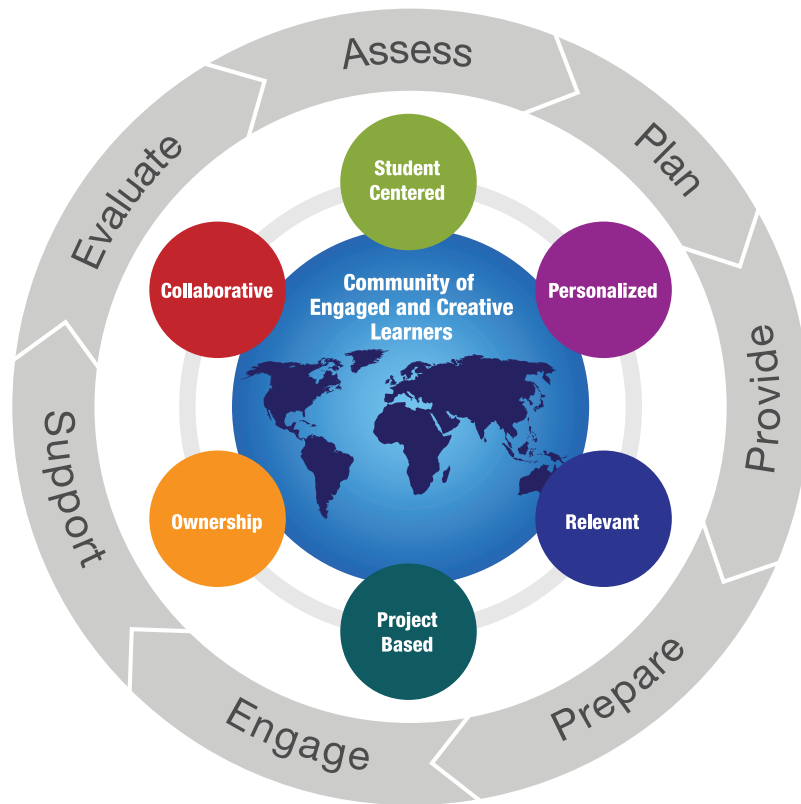
*They want to expand and go further... It's going to transform the whole world, I really believe that."*

- **Phyllis Lupton**, Principal (ret.), Thomasville, NC, Primary School

***"I saw kids blossoming in ways that we never thought possible."***

- **Dawn Spencer**, Principal, Allen Jay Elementary School, High Point, NC

**GEM-T.** The goal of GEM-T is to form communities of engaged and creative global learners (including students, parents, teachers, and the extended community) by imbuing learning with key characteristics – student-centered, personalized, relevant, project-based, collaborative – so community members take ownership of their own learning.



Using KNS' proven seven-step process, GEM-T ensures all aspects of each school – pedagogy, professional development, infrastructure, instructional and technical support, student assessments, teacher evaluations, and management systems – are aligned so the school can attain the GEM-T goal and meet or exceed the expectations of the governance community.

**GEM-T Components.** The three primary components of GEM-T are:

1. **The GEM-T Learning Community.** This advanced online learning system empowers communities of schools with curriculum resources, course modules, communication, collaboration, portfolios, mentoring, coaching and other tools.
2. **The GEM-T Professional Development System.** Teachers and administrators are supported by a world-class professional development system.
3. **The GEM-T Curriculum Construction and Delivery System.** The heart of the GEM-T curriculum is a set of tools that teachers and students use to construct a wide variety of highly engaging, rigorous, standards-based projects.

**Our Story.** KNS and Duke University's Project Bright IDEA team have collaborated to provide GEM-T, a transformational model for world class learners. GEM-T teaches all students as gifted and engages them by infusing technology into highly relevant curricula.

Bright IDEA creators adapted and integrated 14 research-based K-12 programs to create new-paradigm pedagogy. As an example, teachers of 5,000 K-2 students in Title I schools were retrained to use this pedagogy in their classrooms. The results were extraordinary: 29% of Bright IDEA second graders were identified as gifted using nationally-normed tests. The top cohort had 47% of students identified versus 0-1% previously. The key finding: all children, especially at-risk students, are far more capable than is widely believed.

The digital world can be used to engage and transform change-resistance schools. Opening the learning environment to 24/7 access allows students more personalized learning opportunities and support of their interests. KNS' assessment, planning and professional development enables teachers to use technology to energize students. This "jumpstarts" pedagogy transformation in a matter of days yet can last a lifetime.

**Combining proven success into an advanced transformational model**

# GEM-T!

**GEM-T Transformation Process.** KNS supports schools with a time-tested, ongoing, seven-step process that aligns the school community members and provides a well-organized, step-by-step system for transformation. The steps are: 1) Assess; 2) Plan; 3) Provide; 4) Prepare; 5) Engage; 6) Support; and 7) Evaluate. **Assessment and planning are 75% of success in transforming schools.**

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