



Doing for Education What the Valley has done for the World

The Future of Learning™

The vast power of the Web, data-mining and information systems technologies have transformed the consumer, commercial and government sectors worldwide, but not the education or the social services sectors in U.S.

The National Laboratory for Education Transformation, www.NLET.org, a Silicon Valley based non-profit closely allied with UC Santa Cruz, has a unique mission in the Valley: to “Systematically raise and sustain the rate of learning for all individuals and institutions in the U.S. through the best technical, cultural, financial, and organizational means possible.”

NLET is based on the premise that the 20th Century industrial-modeled education and training institutions are incapable of meeting all of the human capital needs for the 21st Century information-based society. Billions have been expended on schools, community colleges and in public training programs through institutional and government “top-down” models that produce a great deal of failure along with their successes. Failure is expensive for society and devastating for those who are not well-served.

The efficiencies achieved elsewhere on a grand scale with Internet technologies have not come to education because the business models are not present at the large-scale. The Federal government has brought data and standards to education, Valley entrepreneurs have created many point solutions, but systems change has not been contemplated.

As a consequence, NLET is dedicated to designing, supporting and building new information-based systems and infrastructures to allow personalization for learning and teaching, infrastructure and cloud services for institutions, and secure data-sharing to provide ready access to open learning and learning support via the Web.

The models have been proven elsewhere, but the investment for modernization has not occurred in education and across social agencies. This is where the Valley has a critical role to play. NLET believes that Silicon Valley information and data systems, identity management, and modern media management entities need to be brought into the center of education transformation in an appropriate way to make the U.S. competitive, to reduce failure rates and to create a pipeline for innovation and skills-based supply to existing regional jobs.

NLET brings a unique mix of talent, connections and skills to the transformation of education, learning and skills acquisition. NLET understands the power of social media, data mining, consumer technology as well as the limitations of institutions and the promise of mixing private and public funds to place education and social service on the same footing with the other transformed sectors. NLET has proven that it brings:

- Understandings of modern complex big-data, social media, security and identity management systems
- Ability to bring the best from university and government research and corporate innovation to the cause
- Managing complex projects from design to delivery in school or to learners, to product and solution launch
- Deep knowledge of corporate business development, foundation and government grant-making
- Unfailing commitment to individual learners and their families as the core assets of the next systems
- A thorough understanding of using modern marketing and communication for institutional and social change

To date, NLET has proven this capability through its role in obtaining its first National Science Foundation grants with its university and national laboratory (Los Alamos) partners, its first Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation award with community college partners, and its first Federal sub-award (www.NIST.gov) with its corporate partners. NLET helps Valley for-profits and non-profits connect with test beds in schools and connect with university researchers. NLET works closely with Valley-based GooruLearning.org.