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Alma[™] Assembles Education Luminaries to Expand EdTech Innovation

Top experts in school leadership, digital transformation, and smart technology integration join Alma Advisory Board to champion the vision of holistic student learning

PORTLAND, Ore. (April 16, 2014) – Seven highly regarded education leaders and visionaries have teamed with Alma, an edtech company offering a holistic student engagement platform, to explore the effective elements and applications of a 360 degree view of the learning process. Alma has assembled an Advisory Board that represents a diverse set of perspectives from across the country with deep experience in using modern technology as a catalyst for change: Steven Anderson, Adam Bellow, Jimmy Casas, Erin Klein, Thomas Murray, Joe Sanfelippo, and Eric Sheninger.

The transition to digital technologies in schools has yielded the opportunity to engage students in increasingly powerful and meaningful ways and to bring all stakeholders together around students' individual needs to improve learning outcomes. The Alma Advisory Board will examine these issues and share its insights with the education community at large, while supporting Alma in continuing to drive edtech innovation by defining and advancing a holistic approach to student learning. Since the company launched its platform in February 2014, schools in 37 states and 24 countries have implemented it.

"We are honored and humbled to partner with and learn from these revered educator leaders," said Alma President Jack Macleod. "Our approach from day one has been to continually listen to and incorporate feedback from practitioners into our offerings. The Advisory Board elevates this effort to a new level to not only support schools where they are now, but also where they are headed, and share this knowledge throughout the industry. Modern technology can and will transform the way schools and districts operate, and this group will help accelerate that movement."

About the Alma Advisory Board Members

[Eric Sheninger](#) is the director of technology and innovation for the Spotswood School District (N.J.), a senior fellow with the International Center for Leadership in Education, an award-winning former principal, and best-selling author. Under his leadership, New Milford High School (N.J.) became a globally recognized model for innovative practices and successfully implemented several sustainable change initiatives that radically transformed the learning culture at his school while increasing achievement.

[Erin Klein](#) is a second grade teacher for the Cranbrook Educational Community (Mich.) and a nationally recognized speaker and author who has been named an ASCD Emerging Leader and the 2014 MACUL PreK-12 Teacher of the Year. Her recent publication, *Amazing Grades*, was a collaboration with experts from 13 countries around the world, and she travels the country speaking about the power of student voice, how meaningful technology integration can enhance learning, and the impact of classroom design.



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[Adam Bellow](#) is the founder and president of eduTecher and eduClipper and a former high school English teacher and technology training specialist in Long Island. Awarded with numerous accolades, including the 2011 ISTE Outstanding Young Educator of the Year, Bellow works with educational leaders, teachers, and students from around the country to help them infuse technology successfully in the classroom.

[Steven Anderson](#) is a highly sought after speaker, author and expert on educational technology integration and using social media for learning. Anderson has authored three books on these topics and was previously a classroom teacher and director of instructional technology. Named one of the Top 50 Educational Innovators by the Center for Digital Education, he is also responsible for helping create #edchat, a weekly education discussion on Twitter that boasts over 500 weekly participants.

[Tom Murray](#) is the state and district digital learning director for the Alliance for Excellent Education. A former CIO and school principal, Murray is passionate about proper digital learning implementation and personalized professional learning. He was the recipient of the Blended Schools Network Leadership Award and was named one of the top 16 “forward thinking EdTech leaders in the country.”

[Joe Sanfelippo](#) is the superintendent of the Fall Creek School District (WI) and co-author of two books on leading learning in the digital age and the power of school branding. He co-hosts the BrandED Radio Show on the Bam Radio Network, and he was selected as one of the Future Ready superintendents by the U.S. Department of Education.

[Jimmy Casas](#) is the award-winning principal of Bettendorf High School, as well as a blogger, motivational speaker, and consultant. He is the co-founder and co-moderator of #IAedchat, co-founder of Edcamp Iowa, and co-author of “What Connected Educators Do Differently.”

For their full bios, visit <http://www.getalma.com/about.html#advisors>.

About Alma

Alma is focused on improving student outcomes by enhancing workflow automation and data management in K-12 education. Its Holistic Student Engagement Platform unites a student information system and learning management system into an integrated, intuitive experience that empowers educators with a 360 degree view of the student learning process. The cloud-based software integrates multiple school and district functions into a single system that chronicles state reporting, curriculum management, lesson plans, grades, report cards, school calendars, inter-school messaging and notes, student data, parent communications, and assessments. At the same time, Alma enables districts to do more with less by simplifying their complex ecosystem of tech tools through consolidation while saving time and money. Alma provides a flexible, scalable solution that can work for any school and any budget. To learn more about Alma and its features, or to request a demo, visit www.getalma.com.



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