From the Conference Chair of
The Learning Ideas Conference 2021

David Guralnick
International E-Learning Association and Kaleidoscope Learning
New York, New York

The Learning Ideas Conference (TLIC) 2021, held online from June 14th-18th, was our 14th annual conference overall, but the first with a new name and focus. The International Conference on E-Learning in the Workplace (ICELW), which ran from 2008-2020, focused on online learning in workplace settings. The Learning Ideas Conference expanded the conference scope to include higher education as well as workplace learning, and defined the focus of the conference as "Innovations in Learning and Technology for the Workplace and Higher Education."

TLIC 2021 initially was planned to be a hybrid event, both in-person and online, but shifted to being online-only due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic. The 5-day online event included five keynote speakers:
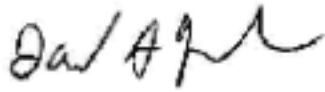
- Prof. Dr. Ilona Buchem of Beuth University of Applied Sciences Berlin, a well-known researcher who discussed uses of wearable technology in learning;
- Deborah Howes, an award-winning professor, museum leader, art historian, and media producer from Johns Hopkins University and Howes Studio Inc., who discussed museums and their role in digital learning;
- Michael Kanaan from MIT and the U.S. Air Force, and the author of a best-selling book on artificial intelligence (AI), whose talk focused on AI;
- David Kelly, Senior Vice President and Executive Director of The Learning Guild, who spoke about the current and future uses of learning and technology in organizations; and
- Dr. Alicia Sanchez, the Director of Innovation for the Department of Defense's Defense Acquisition University and a game and simulation pioneer, who discussed the intersection between learning science and user-centered design.

The conference was well-attended and featured dozens of wonderful talks and papers in addition to the keynotes. We're already looking forward to The Learning Ideas Conference 2022, planned to be a hybrid event.

This special issue of iJAC features papers based on presentations from The Learning Ideas Conference 2021, all of which have been expanded and revised for journal publication.

The Learning Ideas Conference and iJAC are avenues through which we can integrate research and practice in order to expand the worlds of higher education and workplace learning. Our mix of researchers and practitioners at the conference and in iJAC is, in my view, one of the strengths of both the conference and the journal, as we look to advance the field in ways that are practical yet based on research and theory.

I would like to thank all of our presenters and participants, as well as our Executive Committee, International Program Committee, keynote speakers, and our wonderful staff, for a great first edition of The Learning Ideas Conference, as we already look toward TLIC 2022. Our next conference is planned to be held from June 15-17, 2022 at Columbia University in New York and online. As always, I look forward to seeing continued work from iJAC and TLIC play a major role in influencing and improving the field of online learning.

David Guralnick, Ph.D.
Chair, The Learning Ideas Conference
Editor, International Journal on Advanced Corporate Learning
President, International E-Learning Association
President, Kaleidoscope Learning
Adjunct Professor, Columbia University