

Woman in Leadership Conference – AISNE - April 2026

Dee Bunstein - What a wonderful experience and joyful way to meet other women in the field of education and see all the impactful work and labor of love this journey is for women all over the world. There were 180 participants this year, an increase from last year's number, and still they maintained a waitlist for attendees. They need to move to a larger venue next year.

The AISNE team, particularly Becky Biggs, is extremely thoughtful in their session planning, receptive and responsive to feedback, and plans accordingly. They seek and value our opinions, and I know next year will be equally impactful – even if Wanda Holland Green is not there to sing us into inner peace and inspire us to greatness.

My topics and sessions were thought-provoking and offered good tools and tips on navigating a challenging industry. We are unique in that we are well supported, well-funded, and find ourselves feeling very lucky that we do not encounter many of the issues and hardships other programs / administrators struggle with within their own programs- such as offices in hallways, short staffed, lack of materials, budget cuts constantly, PD opportunities and cost sharing.

Thank you to the AO Trust for supporting the work of educators and administrators at Apple Orchard School. Funding such events and PD is meaningful and inspires us to continue the hard work of educating young minds and spirits while also motivating our teachers to continue their own professional learning journeys. I feel reignited and look forward to putting some of the tools discovered into action for myself and the program.

Katie Sawatzky - The AISNE (Association of Independent Schools of New England) 2026 Women's Leadership Symposium gave us a chance to gather with inspiring colleagues and share ideas in beautiful New Hampshire last April. The multi-day conference challenged us to improve our approach to education through sessions of meaningful learning, connection, and reflection. We listened to dynamic keynote speakers, and attended interactive workshops with active discussions focused on leadership development, well-being, belonging, career growth, and authentic leadership. We are grateful to the Teachers' Trust for directly supporting our ability to attend this wonderful experience.

Diana Walcott - As an administrator, it can be difficult to find professional development experiences that truly justify time away from school. The AISNE Women's Leadership Symposium was one of those rare experiences. Thanks to the support of The Teacher's Fund, I was able to attend and I'm deeply grateful for that investment in my growth.

Spending a few days away with colleagues to connect both personally and professionally was a true gift. The chance to expand my network, learn from accomplished leaders and experts in the field, and exchange ideas with peers made the experience especially meaningful. After spending most of my career in early childhood education, I'm grateful to continue learning, growing, and being inspired by others in the profession.



Atomic Habits by James Clear
Deep Work by Cal Newport
Getting Things Done by David Allen
Essentialism by Greg McKeown
Four Thousand Weeks by Oliver Burkem
The Joy of Missing Out by Tanya Dalton

