



We hope your week is off to a great start and that everyone is staying home and keeping safe! With the Coronavirus crisis and so much uncertainty, there isn't a better time to come together and draw upon our SEL skills.

Many of you may be using this time to think about next steps for your career and how to use your SECD expertise. Although schools are (typically!) where youth spend most of their time, there are other careers that can support the promotion of SECD and school climate work. Thus, in this week's feature, we are sharing the story of a woman who has been exemplifying and promoting SECD for over 12 years...



Pamela McVeagh-Lally is a nonprofit and philanthropic consultant and Founding Partner of SEL Consulting Collaborative specializing in Social and Emotional Learning. Though she majored in theatre in college she always loved working with children. After college, she worked as a nanny and started a small childcare company. Working with children and focusing on what constitutes high quality care, Pamela developed an interest in pursuing a career where she could serve and promote the positive growth and well-being of children. Soon after, she was hired by the NoVo Foundation as one of their initial employees. In fact, she was involved in some of the early work to develop the Academy for SEL in Schools! Pamela also supported the design and launch of CASEL's Collaborating Districts Initiative, the most ambitious systemic SEL effort in the U.S. to date.

After spending close to six years at NoVo Foundation, becoming the manager of the SEL Initiative, Pamela continued to work in the field of SECD, serving as Foundation Fellow for Tauck Family Foundation in Connecticut and then moving to California and working for a non-profit SEL program provider. She started her consulting business where she now supports nonprofit organizations, foundations, school districts, and departments of education in promoting systemic SEL. One important project she worked on was serving as strategy advisor to the California Department of Education to develop the state's SEL Guiding Principles.

When asked to reflect on her SECD experience and what advice she would offer to people interested in non-traditional careers in the field of SECD, she encouraged people to go for diverse opportunities: try different kinds of jobs and work in different systems. She feels, and we could not agree more, that this holistic approach provides people with the knowledge of different systems and the ability to understand different perspectives and support systematic change.

We thank Pamela for sharing her story and being a leader in the field of SECD!

### International SEL Day: A big success!

# #SELday

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Your efforts across the world helped #SELday reach almost two million people! During the week of March 20-27, we collectively shared our #SELday hashtag with 1,998,472 people. That's through the incredible efforts of all of you. THANK YOU!

Check out:

- Some of the SEL Day celebrations shared on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hashtag/SELday>
- Important SEL Day news, including podcasts, blog posts, and even state proclamations: <https://selday.org/news/>
- The webinar SEL in a Time of Uncertainty: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPE393vzZ\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPE393vzZ_E)

### Reminder: Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC)

We are in the midst of research and evaluation efforts to learn more about your experiences in the Academy. We will reach out to everyone eventually, however, we have already learned that one term is somewhat of a mystery: VPLC.

So, what is the VPLC? The VPLC is the Virtual Professional Learning Community - and guess what - you're already a part of it! For those of you in the "thick of it" (i.e. still enrolled in classes), your VPLC is expansive. You have your course cohort as a source of consultation and feedback, your instructor(s) to reach out to, and you also have the option of reaching out to our community of experts at the Academy using the email: [SELvplc@gmail.com](mailto:SELvplc@gmail.com).

For alumni, the VPLC brings continuous added value to your certificate. This, in turn, enhances your role in your school or after-school setting, including serving as a resource to other staff with regard to children's Social-Emotional and character competencies. We encourage alumni, who may or may not have contact with their cohorts or instructors to reach out to us at [SELvplc@gmail.com](mailto:SELvplc@gmail.com).

These times remind us of the importance of creating and accessing our communities (especially the virtual ones!). Don't forget you have a support system built into the Academy!

### Spring Celebrations

Finally, as we come upon Passover and Easter, we know many people will be celebrating in new and unfamiliar ways. We wish you the very best during this time and hope that you continue to social distance and stay safe.

### Upcoming Events

[CASEL CARES Webinar: Building Resilience to Support Ourselves, Others, + Our Students](#)

April 10 at 1 pm EST

[CASEL CARES Webinar: Let's Listen to Our Young People: What Support Do They Need?](#)

April 17 at 1 pm EST

Don't forget to follow us on social media!



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