

About Derek

Derek Peterson is an International Child/Youth Advocate and the primary facilitator of Kaleidoscope Connect's comprehensive program that measures and amplifies a student's developmental ecology, the "other side of the report card." This integrative approach uses a consilience model for optimal youth development as it relates to student achievement, civility, and overall well-being. Derek's work guides local, state, national, and international governing boards, policy makers, and program leaders to measure the impact of their efforts upon the developmental ecology of youth. This includes working with the National School Boards Association to increase caring and connection in schools.



Since 1994, Derek has delivered more than two thousand presentations on youth development around the world, engaging and supporting individuals, families, schools, and communities. More than 310,000 copies of his books in the "Helping Kids Succeed" series are in print. In Alaska, Derek has been recognized as the *Prevention Professional of the Year* and *Educator of the Year*. He is also an Associate with the International Institute for Children's Rights and Development in Victoria, Canada, and guides efforts to measure the effectiveness of programs that work to support the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Derek works with numerous communities and school districts throughout the US, Canada, and the world, with current partners and projects in Minnesota, Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, California, Arizona, Tennessee, Illinois, Nigeria, Ghana, and La Frontera (the US/Mexican border region).



Student-centered events that change lives and amplify trajectories



Brightways Learning

If your school district or organization is interested in hosting Phlight Club™ or other Kaleidoscope Connect activities, please contact:

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Kaleidoscope Connect
Full-spectrum Youth Development

A service of Brightways Learning

What Is Phlight Club?

Phlight Club™ is a youth leadership and empowerment EXPERIENCE

Kaleidoscope Connect's Phlight Club brings together up to 80 of the school district or regional student leaders — and adults who care about them — once or more each year. Student participants come together to learn to identify and measure their webs of support and how they can self-activate it. They learn about the power of Integrative Youth Development (IYD)™ and its full-spectrum approach to youth development with its seven colors that represent the “phactors” that contribute to every student’s developmental ecology. Participants practice working together to solve problems using their heads, hands, and hearts. They solve these problems while keeping each other safe, focused, respected and involved.

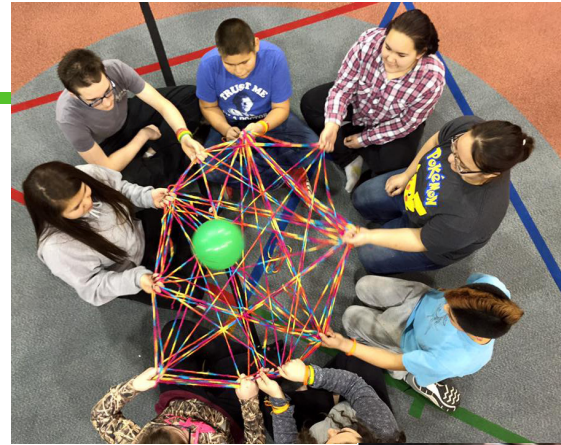
Phlight Club is about action, interspersed with short opportunities for “lessons” about school, life, and friendships. The activity is organized by adults from the community, and staff and parents from around the district, many of whom also participate in the event. A community night is commonly held during the event, where the youth do presentations to the whole community to teach what they have learned and to thank them for their support. We encourage adults to come and join in some of the activities alongside the students.



We carefully review each application to make sure that we get a cross-section of students. Unfortunately, we can't always bring everyone who applies. If your district holds Phlight Clubs, get an application from your program leader.

“I’ve lived here for 25 years, and I have never seen a school activity where ALL of the students are involved. This is AWESOME.”

- Teacher’s Aide



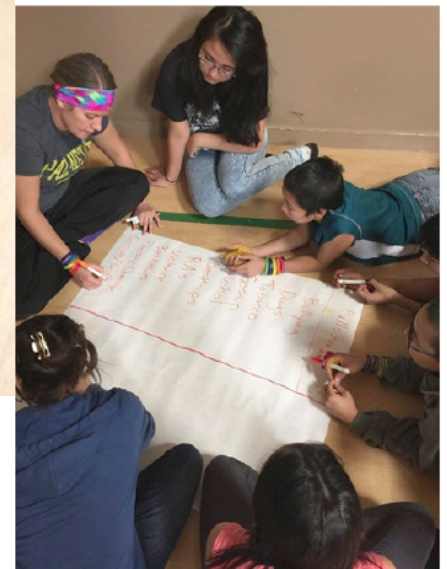
“The time went by so fast. 3 1/2 days felt like one. I want more days!!”

- Middle School Student



“This is the best leadership experience I have ever attended.”

- High School Student



Raising Resiliency By Seeing Students in Full Color

Resiliency is almost guaranteed when a teen has a web of support. This web is made of protective factors that guide youth to make good decisions and grow to be healthy and successful. This protection is found within the complete spectrum of each youth's developmental ecology.

Phlight Club concentrates on building and sustaining a web for all students, both inside and outside of the classroom. Strong webs of support help our kids to succeed, now and long into the future.

More than 50 years of national research has proven that the tighter the web teenagers have, the more likely they will succeed in school, help others, and avoid alcohol, drugs, and other risk behaviors. Integrative Youth Development™ (IYD) uses the seven "phactors" (areas of impact represented by the seven colors) that contribute to each student's developmental ecology, making stronger children and youth.



The basic wisdom of the resiliency research is that adults must focus on the positive attributes that we want for our children, so that we see every child and youth in "full color" rather than in "black and white" — e.g., "good kid" or "bad kid." We focus on growing something,

not stopping something. When adults guide and support students to build the skills and values necessary to stay connected to their web, then many of the problems that we currently focus upon will be eliminated or significantly reduced. The family, school, and community are critical in building resiliency, so what we do is always locally and culturally relevant because we amplify — by identifying and celebrating — what the local people are *doing right*.

"My involvement with Phlight Club has given me both personal and professional connections in life that I can carry with me life-long. That is what we, the many counselors, district support staff, chaperones, and the principals and schools that support this program, also want to instill in our students. We want them to make connections, build webs of support anchored by caring adults in their lives, build positive relationships with their anchors and with their peers, and use this program as a "spring board" to have successful lives."

- School Counselor

What We Know

The development of resiliency involves all potential anchors in discovering and sharing how to best build the webs of support that youth need. The design of this project is built on the following:

All students need a rich web of support

While it is crucial to pay special attention to those youth who have fewer strings in their web, all young people can use more.

Every adult can play a role in building webs

Integrative Youth Development requires consistent efforts across a community, so that all adults see students in "full color."

Building webs is an ongoing and complex process

A web of support is necessary from early childhood through high school and beyond.

Relationships with Anchors are the foundation

Strong relationships between adults and young people are the building blocks of youth development. Integrative Youth Development requires the presence of at least five caring, supportive adults and peers in each student's life.

Consistent messages through social norms

Youth development requires consistent, positive, and clear messages about high expectations and what is important.

Redundancy

To sustain the web, students need to hear connecting messages and feel regular (almost constant) support from the adults who anchor their web.



Webs of Support

Phlight Club activities are based on a full-color spectrum approach involving seven *phactors*:

Red – The Rule of Five: The foundation for a personal village for each youth by five caring adults (or more,) having high expectations and providing opportunities, teaching skills, and celebrating relative best in appropriate ways.

Orange – Tangible Strings: Measurable supports provided through the anchors that shape the home, school, and community environment of each youth.

Yellow – Intangible Strings: Important, yet difficult to measure, beliefs, values, and behaviors that are being taught to and caught by the youth.

Green – Resiliency/Growing the Balloon: These DNA based characteristics and talents that increase the likelihood that the youth will remain connected to any web that they are given.

Blue – Scissor Cuts/Problem Reduction: Decreasing or eliminating the conditions, actions, and attitudes that erode the supports being created by the adult anchors.

Indigo – Caring for the Carers:

Supporting those who anchor the web so they do not drop out of their lives even when circumstances in their own lives change.

Violet – Social Norms:

The climate and culture of the social environment (home, school, and/or community) that have been accepted or agreed upon by a critical number of adults.



Phlight Club is a multi-day event of non-stop learning, connecting, and working!



Doing the Lessons

Through activities, lessons, Student Support Card surveys, and discussions, we teach “What Students Need to Succeed!”



Debriefing the Activity

After each activity we ask students to think about how the problem was solved, what they learned from the experience, and what they will build upon for next time. The question threading throughout asks: “How does this activity illustrate how to get from where you are to where you want to be?”



Protecting the Head & Heart

Phlight Club is very physical. Students are literally lifting their classmates — and adults — high over their heads, passing them over, through or around obstacles. Always being careful to protect their safety and dignity.