Innovation Summit at Hathaway Brown

With all the talk about the critical importance of creativity and problem-solving as 21st-century skills — not to mention the growing list of challenges facing both public and private schools — the Hathaway Brown School (Ohio) decided it was time to be part of the solution.

In November 2010, the school attracted nearly 500 educators to the campus for the first national Education Innovation Summit. With the help of keynote speakers Daniel Pink, author of *New York Times* bestseller *A Whole New Mind*, Liz Coleman, visionary president of Vermont’s Bennington College, and Jessica Jackley, cofounder of kiva.org, attendees were encouraged to explore ways to build and sustain cultures of innovation. They also heard stories of breakthrough independent schools, with presentations by some of the brightest minds in the field about their innovations in the educational process.

Responses to the conference were strong. One presenter described the event at “the conference of the year, if not the decade.”

“The pace of change, the scope of the problems, the seeming intractability of well fortified positions — we cannot allow these forces to be more powerful than our mission to educate the children in our care for the coming world,” said Hathaway Brown Head of School Bill Christ at the closing of the conference. “We must invent new solutions, we must each commit to leading in our own way, and we must stay resolved to share what we discover.”

For more information, visit www.hb.edu/innovation.