



Waters Center
For Systems Thinking

2024
Annual Report

The Road to 10%

In one of our last conversations with Jay Forester, world renowned author, speaker, M.I.T professor and considered the Father of System Dynamics, he suggested that if we reach 10% of the world's population with the power of systems thinking, it would be a tipping point that would change the world. In 2024, we at the Waters Center eagerly accepted that challenge and are strategically working to achieve that goal. Assuming an overall impact in the first 35 years of at least 1,000,000, we now have a mere 7,500,000 people to go.



Team Changes

Waters Center was delighted to welcome three new team members each of whom bring new talents, experiences, and connections to help us move forward on the road to 10%:



Melanie Houston
Systems Thinking Specialist



David Mandel
Systems Thinking Specialist



Alexandria Sedar
Systems Thinking Specialist

Celebrating Joan Yates

The end of 2024 also signals the official retirement of Joan Yates, Senior Vice President. Joan has committed 35 incredible years of service to the Waters Foundation and now Waters Center. She was the first project director and has led more projects and been instrumental in the development of more initiatives than we can possibly enumerate here. Joan's passion for education and her commitment to the work of making systems thinking accessible to all leaves an indelible mark on each member of our community. We are profoundly grateful for the legacy she has built and while we will miss her day-to-day presence, we know her impact will continue to be felt for years to come.



Joan Yates
Former Waters Center
Senior Vice President

Growth in Online Community



In 2024, Waters Center saw **1892 new website registrants**, who gained access to online systems thinking courses and resources in Thinking Tools Studio, and easy access to registration for Waters Center events.

The Open Studio Webinar offering also continued to grow, seeing **935 participants across 9 webinars**.

Advanced Facilitator Credential Program



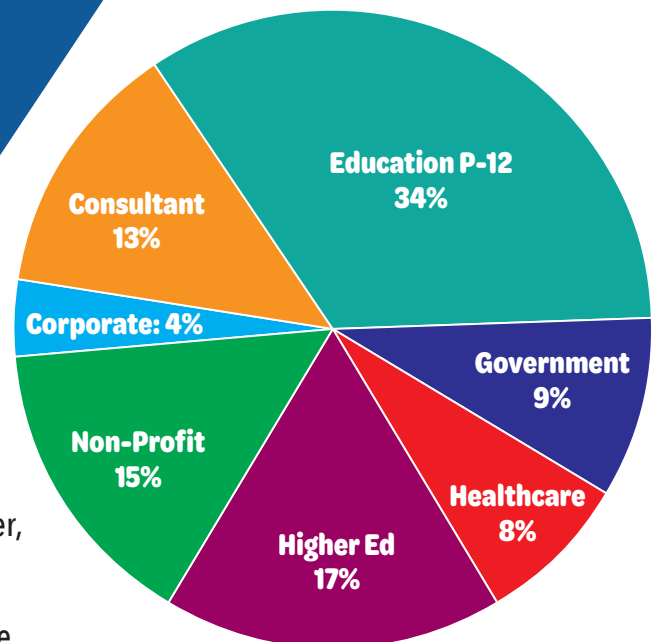
"I graduate from the WCST Advanced Facilitator's course next month [December 2024] and it was **the best practical, relevant and professional development work I have done in my 25 years teaching career** here at the Army Command & General Staff College by a long shot."

- Dr. Ken Long, DM

Associate Professor of Logistics & Change Management
US Army Command & General Staff College

In 2024, Advanced Facilitator Credential (AFC) cohort members participated in **95 hours** of professional learning and received over **370 hours** of personalized coaching. Cohorts 5 and 6 completed their **14 synchronous credential sessions**. Cohorts 7 and 8 launched in September and October, respectively.

As of December 2024, AFC participants include **148 cohort members** across **8 cohorts** and **16 countries!**



AFC Participants Breakdown by Sector

Benefit Delivered by the Numbers

*In addition to time spent with our Advanced Facilitator Credential program,
Waters Center staff delivered...*

718

Hours of Professional Learning

578

Hours of Coaching

and distributed

9250

Children's Books
with systems connections

*Waters Center personnel were privileged to play a part in
building systems thinking capacity as part of these events:*

Arizona School Administrators Annual Conference

Connecticut Adult Education GED Day

Cornell Systems Summit

Improving Data Improving Outcomes (IDIO) Conference

International Systems Dynamics Society Conference

National Rural STEM Summit

National Science Teachers Association

Partners in Science Conference