

Thank You and What's Next: Episode 297

Elena: If you've ever listened to this podcast while driving to work, walking around your school grounds, washing dishes, or sitting quietly with your journal, this episode is for you. Hello friends and welcome to the Bright Morning Podcast. I'm your host Elena Aguilar, and today. With so much love and gratitude, I wanna let you know that this episode, episode 297, will be our final episode of the podcast.

And I wanna begin by saying thank you. Thank you for listening, for learning with us. For inviting us into your lives, into your routines, your offices, your commutes. We started this podcast in the summer of 2020, in the beginning of the pandemic and during the disorientation and isolation of the pandemic.

This podcast was a way to stay connected. And it continued to be that once we emerged from that terrifying time, it is been a way to connect and to keep growing in community. It has truly been one of the great honors of my career. To get to be in your ears each week to know that my words were with you as you led meetings.

Coached colleagues reflected quietly, or just tried to make it through another day. This podcast started as a way to share tools and stories to help you build stronger relationships, lead with intention, and be the change you want to see in your schools and organizations. And I am so proud of what we've created.

We've built a tremendous body of work, nearly 300 episodes, covering everything from transformational coaching moves, to navigating emotions, to responding. When you hear something racist. To leading teams and PD where everyone can learn and grow and thrive, all in pursuit of creating a world where every child gets what they need every single day, and where every single person can thrive.

We hope this archive continues to be a resource that you return to and share with others. There are so many people to thank for making this show what it has been. First to the Bright Morning teammates and to our community members who shared your voices, your stories, your questions, your vulnerability.

Thank you to everyone who joined us as a role player, a coaching client, a question asker, or a story sharer. You helped make this podcast meet the needs

of listeners around the world to those of you who supported us financially as friends of the show, who left reviews, who shared episodes with colleagues, or sent us notes about what an episode meant to you.

Thank you. Every time we heard from a listener, we felt it. And it reminded us that this was never just a show. It was a shared space for growth. And now I wanna share something personal with you. This podcast has been a labor of love. It has brought me so much joy and. It has also required a great deal of time, energy, and care from our small but mighty team.

Over the years we've said yes to this work because we've believed in it and we still do. But one of the guiding principles at Bright Morning is that every yes is also a no to something else. And as we looked ahead to what we want to build next, that includes new workshops, new tools, more personalized support for our members.

We realized that continuing this podcast would require us to say no to some of those things. We believe that creating exquisite work means being honest about capacity. And that sustainability isn't just a value that we talk about. It's one we try to live into. So ending this podcast is us walking that talk.

It's a model of what it means to lead with integrity to say, this has been beautiful and it's time for what's next. So I invite you to reflect on that as well. Where in your life might you need to release something that has served its purpose? What would it look like to close a chapter? Because it's complete what might become possible?

If you gave yourself permission to pause or shift, this is the kind of reflection we hope we've sparked for you, not just in this episode, but over the course of the entire show. And while this is the end of the podcast, it's not the end of the learning. If you have found value in these episodes, we would love to continue growing with you in a few ways.

First, make sure you're subscribed to my Weekly Wisdom Newsletter. This is where I share personal reflections and tools and guidance that you won't find anywhere else. Second, come join us on YouTube. We will continue to release new short videos with coaching tools, facilitation tips, and stories to support your practice.

Third, join one of our free community webinars. These are powerful spaces for reflection, connection, and inspiration. And finally, for those of you who are ready for deeper sustained support, we have our learning libraries, our

professional learning communities. And our transformational workshops where we will continue to help leaders and coaches and facilitators build the skills, mindsets, and communities that we all need to thrive.

And you'll find links to all of those in the show notes. As we close this chapter. Know that we are still here, still building. Still deeply committed to helping you lead the conversations and experiences that change lives from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for being on this journey with us. Thank you for your trust.

Thank you for your time. It has been an absolute gift to grow alongside you. And I wanna end by thanking the two people who not only made this podcast possible from day one, but who advocated for it, who pushed for it, and who encouraged me to take the risk of creating it. So I have to start with my teammate, Leslie Bickford, who is the president of Bright Morning.

And who has been the show's producer, LesLee, you shaped every episode, every series, and every moment of clarity and resonance that listeners experienced. This podcast exists because of your encouragement and has continued for almost 300 episodes because of your vision and unwavering dedication. And Stacey Goodman, who is my husband and who has been our sound engineer, thank you for making every episode sound as good as it did, and for bringing such care and skill to each edit.

You are the most supportive and selfless partner I could imagine. And you not only make this podcast exquisite, you make my life exquisite. All right, folks. That's it. I'll see you on YouTube in your inbox at a workshop, and hopefully in person, and until then be, well keep going. You've got this. We'll be here cheering you on every step of the way.