Learning is all about exploring. And that’s exactly what attendees did the last week of February during the Training 2019 Conference & Expo at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, FL, and two co-located events, the Learning Leaders Summit (held at GuideWell Innovation Center) and Innovations in Training (which traveled to various locations in Orlando).

Attended by 2,000-plus Learning and Development (L&D) professionals, the conference helped unearth valuable learning nuggets and best practices in 12 certificate programs, 16 hands-on clinics, 120-plus breakout sessions, Verizon’s 5G Experience Bus, and a scavenger hunt powered by GeoTeaming. And attendees discovered the latest and greatest products and services from nearly 90 exhibitors in the Expo Hall.

The keynoters touched our hearts and intrigued our brains (see p. 42 for keynote quotes), while the Training Technology Test Kitchen cooked up innovative solutions and the Second City Works coached participants on using improv to up their training game.

At the Learning Leaders Summit, participants tackled the $64,000 question: How can we dare to develop people differently? (See p. 48 for key takeaways). During Innovations in Training, attendees realized that “small changes can make a compound difference” and rediscovered “how much wondering means and matters.”

Now that’s what we call training treasure.
“Technology moves so fast, we usually can’t reuse things from other movies. We have to rebuild them. But having that blank slate can be paralyzing.”
—Danielle Feinberg, Director of Photography for Lighting, Pixar Animation Studios

“Whitespace is a strategic pause taken between activities. Such pauses are the moments that allow the oxygen to catch fire.”
—Juliet Funt, CEO, WhiteSpace at Work

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“The role of work won’t be to simply pay the rent, but to create meaning and belonging. Decide what you stand for and stick with it.”
—Shiza Shahid, Co-Founder, Malala Fund, and Founder, The Collective

“Challenge yourself to create new neural pathways. Our job is to push the unconscious. Whatever gets served up to you, send it back and keep thinking; don’t imagine there is one single answer.”
—David Eagleman, Host, PBS’ The Brain, and Author; “Livewired: How the Brain Rewrites Its Own Circuitry”
Attendees on board Verizon’s 5G Experience Bus offering virtual reality experiences.

Training Technology Test Kitchen head chef Phylise Banner showcases virtual reality (VR) tech.

The Expo heats up as attendees explore the floor.

Everybody stand up—no boring lectures here!

Training team and L&D professionals toast performance consulting expert Dana Gaines Robinson on her retirement.

Attendees gather round to learn from Second City Works how to apply improv techniques to training.

Attendees are game to learn about the latest training products on the Expo floor.

Attendees network and share best practices over lunch.

Energise’s Uldis Pavuls (from Latvia) engages with a pediatric prototype of a physical-virtual patient simulator at the Synthetic Reality Lab at the UCF’s Institute for Simulation & Training.

NASA’s Sharon Goza tries out Red Fern’s VR demo at Quantum Leap Winery during Innovations in Training.

Attendees are game to learn about the latest training products on the Expo floor.

UPS’ Tristan Christensen leads the IT group through the UPS Integrad Orlando training center.

Cheers! Members of the Training team and L&D professionals toast performance consulting expert Dana Gaines Robinson on her retirement.

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BP/OTI & ETL AWARD WINNERS

Training recognized innovative and successful learning and development programs and practices utilized by the 2019 Training Top 125 winners. Best Practice and Outstanding Training Initiative winners received crystal awards during a ceremony on the Expo Stage and were congratulated by Training Top 10 Hall of Famers Catherine Rickelman from IBM and Glenn Hughes from KLA Corporation. The winners are:

BEST PRACTICES
BayCare Health System
CenturyLink
Haskell
Paychex, Inc.
Walden Security

OUTSTANDING TRAINING INITIATIVES
Best Buy
Birmingham Water Works Board
CarMax, Inc.
FORUM Credit Union
Van Meter, Inc.

2018 Emerging Training Leaders: Twenty of the 25 2018 Emerging Training Leaders attended an awards ceremony held on the Expo Stage. The Emerging Training Leader awards program highlights training professionals who are relatively new to the field (minimum of two years and maximum of 10 years) and who have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, business savvy, and training instincts. To read about the winners, check out the January/February 2019 issue of Training magazine at: Trainingmag.com/2018ETL
A Stellar Event

The stars were aligned for the 2019 Training Top 125 winners as their rankings were revealed during the Wish Upon a Star Gala held February 25 during the Training 2019 Conference & Expo at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, FL.

Attended by nearly 550 Training Top 125 representatives and Training Top 10 Hall of Famers, the black-tie gala was sponsored by Adobe (which provided a special gift for attendees), Brella (which spearheaded the event production), Pelucida (which created the crystal awards), Seiko (which served as the official timekeeper of the event and provided keepsake watches and a commemorative clock for the No. 1 winner), and the Training Top 10 Hall of Fame.

Dollar General Corporation, LLC’s wish came true when the retailer learned it had nabbed the top spot on the 2019 Training Top 125. Another retailer, Best Buy, ranked third. Leading Real Estate Companies of the World (No. 2 and eligible for Training Top 10 Hall of Fame induction in 2020), Nationwide (No. 4), and BNSF Railway Co. (No. 5) rounded out the Top 5. Some 28 new companies broke into the Top 125 this year.

Earlier in the day, Training Top 125 Best Practice and Outstanding Training Initiative winners received crystal trophies during a ceremony on the Expo Stage (see opposite page).
These Top 125ers are in a celebratory mood!

Drinks and smiles at the cocktail hour.

High five for the Training Top 125!

Ranking No. 8 is great for Haskell!

Jumping for joy after the Top 125 rankings are revealed.

Gala goodies—program, award, chocolates, and a Top 125 issue.
Dollar General Corporation, LLC, surges into No. 1, earning a keepsake clock from Seiko.

BNSF Railway Co. takes No. 5.

Nationwide earns No. 4.

Best Buy breaks into the Top 5 at No. 3.

Leading Real Estate Companies of the World moves into No. 2.