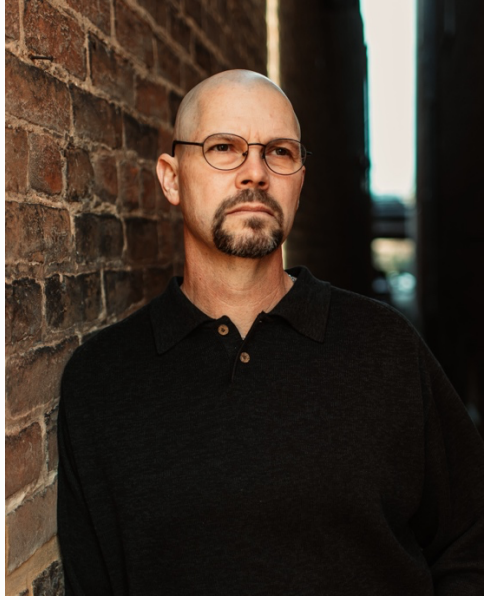




What are You Waiting For?

What if the most memorable lesson your students ever experienced wasn't one they watched but was one they lived?

Join nationally recognized educator Dr. Todd Brown, co-creator of **Operation Outbreak**, at **Bridging the Gap 2026** for an unforgettable conference experience that goes far beyond a keynote presentation.

Throughout **Bridging the Gap 2026**, every attendee will have the option to participate in a conference-wide Operation Outbreak simulation, experiencing firsthand how infectious diseases spread through communities and how individual decisions influence public health outcomes.

Operation Outbreak has captured national attention, including a recent feature in TIME magazine, **"We Aren't Ready for the Next Pandemic. This Game Proves It,"** which highlights the program's innovative approach to teaching pandemic preparedness, critical thinking and scientific literacy through immersive simulation. Developed by Dr. Todd Brown and infectious disease researcher Dr. Pardis Sabeti of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Operation Outbreak now is being used by schools, universities and organizations around the world to prepare participants for the complex realities of future outbreaks.

Bridging the Gap 2026 will open with two morning keynotes, including Dr. Brown's presentation, *What Are you Waiting For?*, where attendees will be challenged to rethink what's possible in today's classrooms by creating learning experiences that ignite curiosity, creativity and

collaboration across disciplines. Through the story of Operation Outbreak, attendees will discover how immersive instruction empowers students to think critically, solve authentic problems, and understand how individual decisions can influence and affect an entire community.

But the keynote is only the beginning.

Throughout the two-day conference, *Bridging the Gap* attendees will have the opportunity to dive deeper into Operation Outbreak through several interactive sessions.

Whether you teach biology, health science, biomedical technology, public health, middle school science, humanities or STEM, these sessions will provide practical strategies, innovative instructional tools, and classroom-ready ideas you can begin using immediately.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn from one of the nation's most innovative STEM educators — and experience firsthand why Operation Outbreak is changing the way students learn about science, public health and the power of informed decision-making.

Day #1 Deep Dive Concurrent Session – Operation Outbreak: Why and How?

Immediately after his morning keynote presentation, where attendees will have the ability to opt into a conference-wide, one-day Operation Outbreak simulation, attendees can dive deeper into Operation Outbreak with its Co-Founder Dr. Todd Brown. Attendees will learn more about how the simulation app and card game were created, how Operation Outbreak evolved from a classroom idea into an internationally recognized educational platform, and how simulations, technology and real-time data help students understand infectious disease transmission, outbreak response and public health decision-making.

Day #2 Operation Outbreak Simulation Results

This year's *Bridging the Gap* will conclude with a closing session that will provide a fascinating look at the data generated by conference participants during the conference-wide Operation Outbreak simulation from the first day of the conference. Using the Outbreak Visualizer, Dr. Todd Brown will reveal how the "outbreak" spread throughout the conference, he will demonstrate how epidemiologists interpret transmission data, and he will highlight the lessons participants can apply in their own classrooms.

About the Creator:

Dr. Todd Brown, Director of Innovation and Training for Operation Outbreak, is an internationally recognized educator known for transforming the way students learn about infectious diseases, public health and scientific inquiry through immersive, real-world simulations. He co-created Operation Outbreak in partnership with researchers to help students and communities understand how infectious diseases spread and how individual decisions shape public health outcomes.

Before joining Operation Outbreak full-time, Dr. Brown was a middle and high school humanities educator, where he pioneered project-based learning experiences that inspired students to tackle authentic scientific challenges. His innovative teaching has earned numerous honors, including U.S. Congressional Teacher of the Year, Henry Ford Innovator of the Year, Air Force Association STEM Teacher of the Year, and recognition as a CDC Science Education Fellow and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Education Ambassador.

Dr. Brown is passionate about helping educators create learning experiences that ignite curiosity, critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving while preparing students to address the complex scientific and public health challenges of the future.