



THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ASSOCIATION

FOUNDATION

The Principal as a Leader of Professional Learning Scholarship Overview

This scholarship honors the memory of *Don Richardson*, who had an inward strength and high values which marked him as a man of excellence, high standards, and increasing productivity throughout his career and personal life.

Because the principal remains the central source of leadership and influence in a school, this scholarship will assist an already effective principal in growing even more so as a professional learner and leader to enable him/her to transfer the new learning to the facilitation of results-based learning for his/her staff.

There now exists a decade of experience and new research demonstrating the critical importance of leadership by school principals. Standards exist to assist the step-up efforts to strengthen and broaden the skills of this position. Effective principal leaders use those standards to embed professional learning into the school's vision and keep a persistent focus on that vision for his/her own professional learning and that of his/her staff. In other words, the principal remains the central source of leadership influence in the learning community that we call "school." Therefore, this scholarship will provide the recipient with the opportunity to focus on his/her growth edge in school leadership, as related to professional learning, and give him/her an opportunity to

- Participate in professional learning within and beyond his/her school.
- Consume information in multiple fields to enhance his/her leadership practice.
- Clarify personal leadership values and beliefs.
- Develop structures to support results-based professional learning.
- Embed professional learning into the school's vision by modeling the vision and communicating that it as a core function for improvement.
- Focus educator growth in professional learning through the use of the Standards for Professional Learning.

This Learning Forward Foundation scholarship is valued at \$10,000 for the life of the scholarship (two years) to assist the principal leader in developing and implementing a goal-driven strategic plan that focuses on the Leadership standard in the new Standards for Professional Learning. The scholarship also includes having an executive coach one hour/month (maximum of 20 hours) for the two-year period, supported attendance at two successive Learning Forward three-day annual conferences, and an accompanying one-day preconference at each of the annual conferences.