

## Frederick Brown becomes director of strategy and development

To bolster its capacity for leadership in transforming schools, school leadership, and accelerating systems change, NSDC hired Frederick Brown, former senior program officer at The Wallace Foundation, to become its new director of strategy and development.



Frederick Brown

Bringing a rich background in school leadership and education policy, Brown will assume responsibility for strategic planning and initiatives, school leader programming, new fund and partner development, as well as direct services to

NSDC clients and members at the system levels.

At The Wallace Foundation, Brown guided the work of several major grantees, including the Southern Regional Education Board, the Institute for Learning at the University of Pittsburgh, and the states of Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, Oregon, Kansas, and New Jersey.

“Frederick’s vast experience and deep commitment to improving education

will add tremendous value to NSDC. I look forward to the many ways he will advance NSDC’s efforts to improve professional learning and student achievement,” said Stephanie Hirsh, NSDC’s executive director. “Frederick has previous experience with NSDC initiatives that will also serve him well in his new position. He is a graduate of Academy XIV, served as a coach for NSDC’s Philadelphia Academy, and is a former member of the NSDC conference planning committee.”

Prior to joining The Wallace Foundation, Brown was director of the Leadership Academy and Urban Network for Chicago (LAUNCH), an organization whose mission is to identify, train, and support principals for Chicago Public Schools. In 2005, LAUNCH was highlighted by the U.S. Department of Education as an Innovative Pathway to the Principalship.

Brown’s expertise is grounded in real-world experience. He has been an elementary school teacher and principal

**“Professional development is the best and most effective way to spread good ideas and practice for the benefit of all education professionals and ultimately the students they serve.”**

— Frederick Brown

as well as a middle school assistant principal. He also served as a founding member of the Mathematics and Equity Teams for Ohio’s Project Discovery, a

statewide initiative to improve mathematics and science instruction.

Over the past 10 years, Brown has been a leader in designing and facilitating cutting-edge learning experiences for school and district administrators on topics such as cultural competence, leadership, and professional learning communities.

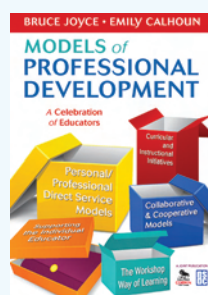
“I look forward to working with NSDC and doing what I can to enhance the already vast and critical programs it brings to the field,” Brown said.

Brown holds a B.A. in elementary and secondary mathematics from the University of Toledo and a Master of Education in educational administration from Bowling Green State University. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in learning science from Northwestern University.

### book club

MODELS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:  
A celebration of educators

Learning models are in focus in the next NSDC Book Club selection for members with this option. Written by Bruce Joyce and Emily Calhoun, this comprehensive resource identifies five major contemporary professional development models. With an emphasis on the connection between professional



learning and student outcomes, this volume provides an in-depth analysis of each approach.

Through a partnership with Corwin Press, NSDC members can add the Book Club to their membership at any time and receive four books a year for \$49.

To receive this book, add the NSDC Book Club to your membership before March 15. It will be mailed in May. For more information about this or any membership package, call NSDC at 800-727-7288 or e-mail NSDCoffice@nsdc.org.



## NSDC's strategy for narrowing the achievement gap focuses on equity and excellence for all students

In looking ahead to the crucial work that I will be a part of during my tenure as NSDC president, I want to remind everyone of our purpose: Every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves.

In alignment with this commitment, NSDC has developed a strategic plan with five strategic priorities (see [www.nsd.org/standfor/strategy.cfm](http://www.nsd.org/standfor/strategy.cfm)). In this issue of *JSD*, I'd like to address one of those priorities: Narrowing the achievement gap.

In a March 2009 speech, President Obama said, "Let there be no doubt: The future belongs to the nation that best educates its citizens. . . . And yet, despite resources that are unmatched anywhere in the world, we have let our grades slip, our schools crumble, our teacher quality fall short, and other nations outpace us. . . . And year after year, a stubborn gap persists between how well white students are doing compared to their African American and Latino classmates. The relative decline of American education is untenable for our economy, it's unsustainable for our democracy, it's unacceptable for our children — and we can't afford to let it continue."

Education is the civil rights issue of our time. So let's talk about the achieve-

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**Ingrid Carney is president of the National Staff Development Council.**

### on board INGRID CARNEY

ment gap. Many of our school districts have established as their goal that "children will graduate ready for college, work, or a career." That is not happening for large numbers of our children.

According to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, the dividing line in our country today is less around race and class, and more around educational opportunity (2009). In many cases, the achievement gap is highly correlated to an opportunity gap. Opportunity is denied when the quality of your education is determined by your ZIP code. When your name is Jamal or Jose or Precious or Maria and you live in an underserved and sometimes dangerous community with high concentrations of poverty, it is more likely that many of your teachers are inexperienced and underqualified for the subjects they teach. When you are a student and too many of your teachers are inexperienced and underqualified, there is a gap in your opportunity to learn. Secretary Duncan says that if we can close the opportunity gap, we could eliminate the achievement gap.

NSDC's strategy for narrowing the achievement gap is to launch a national movement to enlist schools, particularly those serving low-performing students, to embrace the NSDC purpose, because when adults learn, students learn.

To date, we have:

- Launched the Learning School Alliance, with 46 schools participating, including 24 elementary, 13 middle, and 9 high schools;
- Increased the percentage of Academy members who come from high-poverty districts;
- Continued to work closely with the Big 35 school districts where we know these conditions are more likely to exist; and
- Through the work of the Impacting the Future Now Foundation, provided scholarships to educators whose districts might not otherwise afford to send them to NSDC's Annual Conference.

To narrow the achievement gap,

NSDC will continue to focus its efforts on excellence and equity for all students by advocating, providing, and supporting

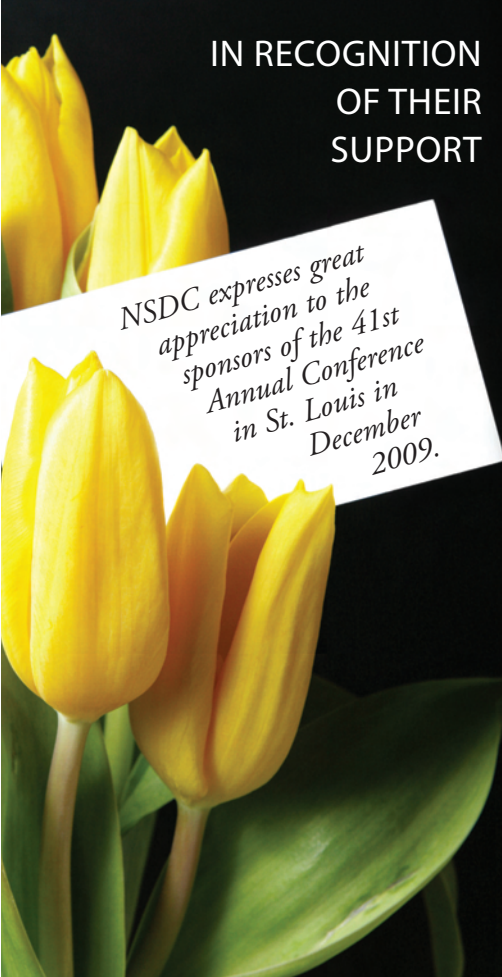
professional learning for every educator, every day. What will you do?



### REFERENCES

**Duncan, A. (2009, April 24).** *Speech for the University of Northern Iowa*, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Obama, B. (2009, March 9).** *Speech for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*, Washington, DC. ■



## IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SUPPORT

*NSDC expresses great appreciation to the sponsors of the 41st Annual Conference in St. Louis in December 2009.*

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**NSDC’S PURPOSE:**

Every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves.



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NSDC CALENDAR

**April 1**

Deadline for submitting nominations for 2010 NSDC Awards.   
[www.nsdc.org/getinvolved/awards.cfm](http://www.nsdc.org/getinvolved/awards.cfm)

**April 30**

Deadline for early registration for NSDC’s 2010 Summer Conference in Seattle, Wash.  
[www.nsdc.org/opportunities/summerconference.cfm](http://www.nsdc.org/opportunities/summerconference.cfm)

**May 1**

New NSDC catalog mails to members. Save money in this year’s budget to make purchases!  
[www.nsdcstore.org](http://www.nsdcstore.org)

**July 18-21**



NSDC’s 2010 Summer Conference, Seattle, Wash.

**July**

Registration opens for NSDC’s 42nd Annual Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

**Dec. 4-8**

NSDC’s 42nd Annual Conference, Atlanta, Ga.

