

Joellen Killion transitions to new role

Joellen Killion, deputy executive director of Learning Forward, will retire from her full-time position at the end of August. Killion's dedicated leadership in the organization has taken many forms over the past 20 years. She served six years as a board member beginning in 1991, two years as a contract employee, and 12 years as a full-time staff member. She will continue to serve Learning Forward in the capacity of senior advisor.



Joellen Killion

"It is certainly with mixed emotions that we announce this news," said Executive Director Stephanie Hirsh. "Joellen has dedicated her passion and energy to Learning Forward 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I'm happy that she'll be able to do the same for her family and her writing. At the same time, we'll miss her skillful leadership and expertise. She has been at the center of this field for a long time, and she has earned the respect of so many educators at all levels."

"While I am stepping away from my responsibilities as deputy executive director, I look forward to contributing to Learning Forward and the field of professional development

in many other ways," said Killion.

Killion led the most recent revision of the *Standards for Professional Learning* and will facilitate the revision of the standards support resources. She has extensive experience in professional development planning, design, implementation, and evaluation at the school and system level. Killion is a frequent contributor to newsletters and *JSD*. Her most recent books include *Becoming a Learning School* (NSDC, 2009) co-authored with Patricia Roy, *The Learning Educator: A New Era for Professional Learning* (NSDC, 2007) co-authored with Stephanie Hirsh, *Assessing Impact: Evaluating Staff Development* (Corwin Press with NSDC, 2008, 2nd ed.), and *Taking the Lead: New Roles for Teachers and School-Based Coaches* (NSDC, 2006) co-authored with Cindy Harrison.

"My commitment to the importance of educator learning is stronger than ever," Killion said. "Any change within education depends on educators' opportunities to learn the knowledge, skills, practices, and dispositions that are essential for the change to be successful. Educators' ongoing learning holds tremendous potential to ensure that every student achieves at the highest levels."

book club

ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: DESIGN, DELIVER, SUCCEED

Although many educators are on the fast track to embracing online professional development, choosing the best solution is not as simple as pushing a button. Author John D. Ross's practical framework guides readers through asking the right questions and making sound development and purchasing decisions. The book's process is founded on proven principles of professional learning and instructional design. This reader-friendly guide provides a path to answering these fundamental questions:

- Why do I need online professional development?
- How much does it cost?
- How do I get started?

- What does high-quality online learning look like?
- What technologies are right for me?
- Did it work?

Included are a decision matrix, a step-by-step planning and implementation framework, buyer guidelines, and real-life case studies from successful online professional development providers.

Through a partnership with Corwin Press, Learning Forward 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 Book Club to your membership before June 15. It will be mailed in August. For more information about this or any membership package, call 800-727-7288 or e-mail office@learningforward.org.



powerful words



I am still learning. — Michelangelo



We need leaders to create a new tone for learning

I am disheartened that so many media pundits and political figures tend to lay blame on educators for our current budget shortfalls.

In their eyes, it is the fat-cat teachers who got us into this situation. These overpaid teachers with their three-month vacations who get health benefits and a retirement system (heaven forbid) are unacceptable. Let's resolve our economic woes, they insist, by lowering teacher salaries (and other workers in the social services), firing librarians, cutting the arts, and creating better teacher evaluation based solely on student test scores.

How did teachers become the scapegoats? I do not recall many teachers who were making money by approving bad loans, or who worked on Wall Street manipulating the financial system for millions in personal gain. I am appalled that teachers are maligned this way. I hear too much teacher blame in too many places. This is a time when we need our leaders — teacher leaders, that is — to speak up.

I only have to walk down the hall in my school to see how teacher leadership makes the difference. Mrs. Medlock shows up at 6:45 each morning, teaches well all day, and leaves at 6 each night. Parents are clamoring for their children

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Mark Diaz is president of Learning Forward's board of trustees.

on board MARK DIAZ

to be in her classroom. She is in her 60s and getting her master's degree because there is so much more to learn. She mentors teachers and shares her new knowledge at faculty meetings.

Ms. Farr, our ELL teacher, puts sparks in our students' eyes with her plays, her 101% attitude, and her photos of children in college shirts. Ms. Mara rejoices every day when one of her students discovers a new insight. She mentors, advocates, and is the soul of our school.

My work with teachers is not unusual. You can all list remarkable teachers, be they novices or those closer to ending their 12-hour-day careers. In many cases, you are the remarkable teacher.

I call out to those teachers: We need your voices. You have the skills, the passion, and the influence to change the political debate into a dialogue that does not demonize. We need you to create an environment for learning at a national level and beyond. Bring your leadership skills to the forefront.

Just ask basic questions, as you would with your students. Ask the CEO of a bank or corporation that accepted bailout money, or the politician clamoring for big cuts in social services, or the editorial writer at your local newspaper.

- How many children have you ever taught to read?
- How many teachers do you talk to every day who are striving to find the best way to reach their hardest-to-teach students?
- How many children have turned to you as someone safe during a crisis in their lives?
- How many children did you guide with a hands-on activity that



demonstrated the concept of the amount of moisture different soils hold?

- How many teachers thanked you for helping them engage their students on a daily basis?

Like any good teacher, when the folks you talk to don't have good answers, you have a responsibility to teach them. Explain how they can do better. Show your high expectations, and teach them to share your high expectations. That's what leaders have to do. ■



LEARNING FORWARD'S PURPOSE: Every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves.

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Seeking board nominations

Learning Forward members will elect two members to the Board of Trustees this year. Learning Forward requires that nominations be submitted by June 30.

To be eligible for nomination, individuals must be current on their membership and have been members for at least two years; have attended at least one annual conference; be employed in the field of education; and have not served on the board during the past two years.

The election will take place in September, and new board members will join the board at the conclusion of the 2011 Annual Conference in December.

Members interested in nominating themselves or other members for the board can learn more about the process at www.learningforward.org/about/elections.cfm.

LEARNING FORWARD COVERS HOT TOPICS IN EDUCATION WEEK

Learning Forward has begun publishing advertorials in *Education Week* with the organization's position on key topics and current issues. The first covered professional learning's role in teacher evaluation (download the PDF at www.learningforward.org/standfor/positions/advertorialeval_pd.pdf).

Upcoming topics include online learning, standards, and the role of external partners. All advertorials will be available on Learning Forward's web site in addition to being published in the print version of *Education Week*. The goal is to raise awareness about important professional learning issues to a wide audience.

Budget-friendly resources

In challenging financial times, Learning Forward is committed to helping its members find creative ways for professional development to thrive and maintain its focus on student learning. With careful planning and an investment in proven strategies and follow-up, members can gain great value from professional learning even when budgets are tight.

Learning Forward has created a collection of useful resources covering a wide variety of ideas and strategies in response to frequently asked questions. Explore the collection at www.learningforward.org/advancing/pdtoughtimes.cfm.

LEARNING FORWARD CALENDAR

- July 17-20:** 2011 Summer Conference for Teacher Leaders and the Administrators Who Support Them, Indianapolis, Ind.
- July:** Online registration opens for Learning Forward's 2011 Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif.
- Sept. 16:** Proposal deadline for Learning Forward's 2012 Summer Conference in Boston, Mass.
- Oct. 15:** Last day to save \$50 on registration for Learning Forward's 2011 Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif.
- Dec. 3-7:** Learning Forward's 2011 Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif.