



NEWS RELEASE

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Learning Forward Announces Kentucky Task Force Members as Part of the Organization's Common Core Initiative

Task Force Will Support Common Core Professional Learning System in the State

DALLAS—April 3, 2012—As part of Learning Forward's initiative to develop a statewide, comprehensive professional learning system to support educators in Kentucky as the state implements Common Core State Standards (CCSS), more than 40 members of the Kentucky education community have been selected to serve on a task force to lead the initiative.

The task force, which includes representation from all stakeholders impacted by the initiative, will review current policies and recommendations to charter a new course in statewide professional development standards that is tied to the Common Core. In partnership with the initiative's advisory council, critical friends, and Learning Forward staff, the task force will develop tools such as materials, protocols, and strategies to sustain the planning and improvement of professional development in preparation of the Common Core implementation in Kentucky.

Members of the task force are:

Susan Allred, Associate Commissioner of the Office of District 180, Kentucky Department of Education

Todd Baldwin, Research and Policy Analyst, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Mona Ball, Research, Kentucky Education Association

Greta Bornemann, Director of Mathematics, Washington State Department of Education

Belinda Bowling, Special Education Cooperative Representative, Wilderness Trail Education Co-Op

Cherry Boyles, Instructional Supervisor, Washington County Schools

Kathy Burkhardt, Superintendent, Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District

Sue Cain, College Readiness Coordinator, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Kathy Carrollton, Program Manager, Professional Learning, Georgia Department of Education

Charlotte Chowning, KE Field Staff, Office of Knowledge, Information, and Data Services, Kentucky Department of Education

Cory Curl, Senior Fellow, Assessment and Accountability, Achieve, Inc.

John DeAtley, Director, P-20 Initiatives, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Victoria Duff, Teacher Quality Coordinator, New Jersey Department of Education

Kirsten Fleming, Executive Director, Kentucky Center for Mathematics

Michael Flory, Research Analyst, Regional Education Lab/Kentucky Department of Education

Bob Fortney, Senior Consultant, Office of Next-Generation Schools and Districts, Kentucky Department of Education

Jana Beth Francis, Director of Assessment, Research and Curriculum Development, Daviess County Public Schools

Alice Gabbard, Director of Diagnostic Intervention Programs, Kentucky Center for Mathematics

Cindy Galloway, Principal, Deer Park Elementary, Daviess County Public Schools

Bryant Gillis, Principal, Tichenor Middle School, Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District

Kim Goff, Director, Curriculum Instruction and Assessment—Math and Science, Jefferson County Public Schools

Sandra Hamon, Assistant Director, Division of Program Standards, Kentucky Department of Education

Ronda Harmon, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of School Councils

Jeff Hawkins, Executive Director, Kentucky Valley Education Cooperative

Janet Jeanes, Senior Policy Consultant, Kentucky School Board Association

Diane Johnson, Assistant Director of P-12 Math and Science Outreach Unit (MSOU) of PIMSER, University of Kentucky

Karen Kidwell, Director, Division of Program Standards and Project Manager, Kentucky Leadership Networks, Kentucky Department of Education

Shirley LaFavers, Director, Division of Professional Development, Kentucky Association of School Administrators

Ann Larson, Vice Dean and Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning, University of Louisville College of Education & Human Development

Starr Lewis, Liaison for School & District Partnerships, University of Louisville, College of Education & Human Development

Brady Link, Superintendent, Christian County Schools

Roger Marcum, Vice Chair, Kentucky Board of Education

Joseph McCowan, Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS) Product Manager, Office of Next-Generation Learners, Kentucky Department of Education

David Millanti, Audit & Compliance Branch, Office of District 180, Kentucky Department of Education

Robyn Oatley, Project Manager, Ready Kentucky, Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

Marty Park, KE Field Staff, Office of Knowledge, Information, and Data Services, Kentucky Department of Education

Toyah Robey, Director, Division of Student Success, Kentucky Department of Education

Bill Scott, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of School Boards

Felicia Cumings Smith, Associate Commissioner, Office of Next-Generation Learners, Kentucky Department of Education

Karen Soule, Administrator, Bureau of Credentialing, New Hampshire Department of Education

Jamie Spugnardi, Kentucky State Liaison, Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center at Edvantia

Jeffrey Stamper, Professional Development Consultant, Office of Next-Generation Schools and Districts, Kentucky Department of Education

Liz Storey, Director, Kentucky Superintendents Network, Kentucky Association of School Superintendents

Keith Sturges, Educational Anthropologist, Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center at Edvantia

Tina Tipton, Chief Academic Officer/Deputy CEO, Ohio Valley Education Cooperative

Terry S. Tolan, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood

Janie Tomek, Assistant Superintendent, Christian County Public Schools

Mary Gwen Wheeler, Executive Director, 55,000 Degrees, and Member, Kentucky Board of Education

Elizabeth Whitehouse, Education Cabinet Member, Early Childhood Advisory Council

Representatives from six additional states, Georgia, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Utah, and Washington, serve as critical friends to Kentucky in their effort to transform professional learning. Joellen Killion, senior advisor with Learning Forward, and Kathleen Paliokas, director of InTASC at Council of Chief State School Officers, facilitate the task force.

“We are thankful the task force members have taken on this important work in Kentucky,” said Stephanie Hirsh, executive director of Learning Forward. “This team of experts is hard at work advancing professional learning and enhancing Common Core instruction in the states.”

Kentucky was selected as the Demonstration State for the initiative, *Transforming Professional Learning to Prepare College- and Career-Ready Students: Implementing the Common Core*, and will receive training, coaching, and support from Learning Forward and other partner organizations over the next two years as a comprehensive plan is developed that incorporates professional learning practices and Common Core State Standards. The resources developed from the initiative will be made available to all states as they implement Common Core State Standards.

“Kentucky strives to ensure that all students are college and career ready upon graduation and have access to effective instruction and assessments based on the Common Core,” said Terry Holliday, Ph.D., Kentucky Commissioner of Education. “The partnership between Learning Forward, task force members, and educators will provide us with the guidance and support we need to work toward that goal and help other states do the same.”

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About Learning Forward (formerly National Staff Development Council)

Learning Forward's purpose is ensuring that every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves. Learning Forward is a nonprofit, international association of learning educators focused on increasing student achievement through more effective professional development. To learn more about the impact of high-quality professional learning, visit www.learningforward.org.