

Meet Learning Forward's new board members

Deborah Renee Jackson is special project administrator for Fairfax County Public Schools in McLean, Va. She works on the design and implementation of her school system's new teacher evaluation initiative and was a finalist for her district's principal of the year award in 2011. In 2009, the McLean Chamber of Commerce named her educator of the year. Jackson also designed a leadership development course facilitated by Learning Forward Senior Advisor Joellen Killion and Laureate Education.



A graduate of the Learning Forward Academy, Jackson was a presenter at the 2010 Summer Conference and has published numerous articles, including in *JSD*.

Jackson envisions Learning Forward as a leader in guiding professional development internationally to strengthen the profession and build capacity through continued focus on research and innovative technology that support learning. This will ensure multiple pathways to professional development that aligns with local, state, and national standards focusing on successful learning for all students.

John Eyolfson is district science coordinator for Cherry Creek Schools in Centennial, Colo. A graduate of the Learning Forward Academy and conference presenter, Eyolfson was host committee chair for the 2012 Summer Conference.

Eyolfson's goals for Learning Forward include:

- To continue to use professional learning to build the capacity of teachers, teacher leaders, and administration to have a positive impact on the development of all children;
- To create an atmosphere of professional learning that has an impact on building capacity of teacher leaders;
- To lead the field of professional learning by modeling best practice; and
- To conduct and seek out the most comprehensive research to guide Learning Forward.



Members whose terms expire this year are past president Mark Diaz and Amanda Rivera. The new trustees will join the board at the conclusion of Learning Forward's 2012 Annual Conference in Boston in December.

book club

SCHOOLS CAN CHANGE:

A Step-by-Step Change Creation System for Building Innovative Schools and Increasing Student Learning

By **Dale W. Lick, Karl H. Clauset, and Carlene U. Murphy**

Foreword by Carlene U. Murphy

Genuine effective school improvement requires leaders and teachers to be part of a broad-based, creative change system that focuses on generating improved teacher practices for enhancing student learning. Based on more than two decades of success with the Whole-Faculty Study Groups approach to professional learning, this guide provides educators with a step-by-step, systemic "change creation" approach for:

- Forming action teams to develop teaching and

learning approaches that measurably improve student performance; and

- Nurturing the right leadership, vision, culture, and relationships within schools for innovation and creativity.

The companion website includes practical online resources, including templates, checklists, action team assessment forms, and an action team rubric.

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 \$69 (for U.S. mailing addresses). To receive this book, add the Book Club to your membership before Dec. 15. For more information about this or any membership package, call **800-727-7288** or email **office@learningforward.org**.





Seize opportunities to lead and serve, and create opportunities for others to do so, too

As I come to the end of my term as president of Learning Forward, I have been reflecting on how Learning Forward has influenced my professional growth as an educator and as a leader. When I was nominated to run for Learning Forward's board of trustees, I was honored to be considered for such a significant position in an organization that has continually challenged and developed my thinking and practice as an educator and growing leader. As a trustee and as president, I have contributed to the development of Learning Forward's strategic plan, supported innovative partnerships that expand our international reach, and advocated for effective professional learning with local, state, and federal officials and legislators. I have been privileged to lead and serve in an organization that shared many of my values and beliefs about teaching and learning, school improvement, and educator development.

Indeed, my involvement with and service to Learning Forward grew out of my desire to become part of a community of like-minded professionals. Like other early career teachers, I was interested in exploring leadership opportunities and having an expanded sphere of influence beyond my own classroom (Johnson & the

Kenneth Salim is president of Learning Forward's board of trustees.

on board KENNETH SALIM

Project on the Next Generation of Teachers, 2004). Learning Forward was a great match: Whether through participation in the Learning Forward Academy, presentations at annual and summer conferences, or volunteering with the New England affiliate, I found that Learning Forward continues to provide numerous avenues for leadership. Of course, these experiences did not happen by accident.

Like other aspiring leaders, I benefited from having supervisors who provided me with opportunities: my principal, Charles Skidmore, asked me to lead a small learning community as a young teacher; Sonja Brookins Santelises, then assistant superintendent for professional development in Boston, supported my participation in the Learning Forward Academy; and Past President Ingrid Carney encouraged me to explore leadership roles in Learning Forward. These mentors looked out for me and asked me to assume important responsibilities. Now as I lead and mentor educators, I look to create the same opportunities for others.

It is also important to note that I actively sought opportunities to lead and to serve as a young educator. I looked for volunteer roles in organizations that shared my values. I asked my supervisors and mentors

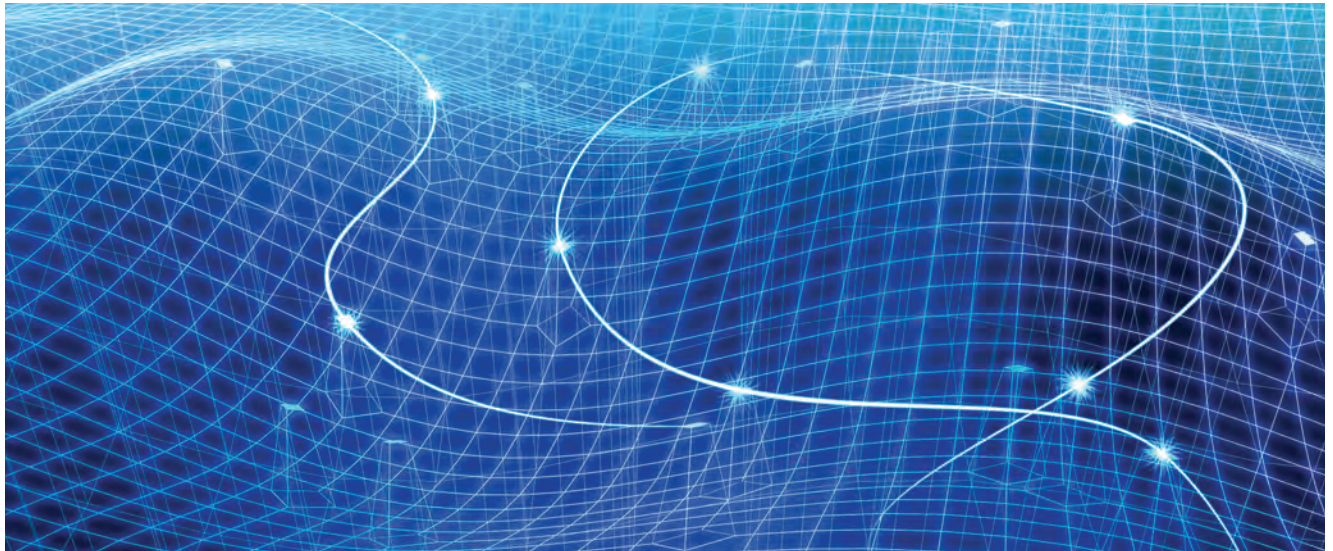


about their career paths and the roles they played. I did not wait to be tapped by others — I put myself forward as someone ready who was ready to contribute and ready to serve.

Learning Forward's members serve in a variety of leadership roles in their schools and communities, but we can all do more. As we continually cultivate and build the next generation of leaders who will help us realize our collective vision — that every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves — I hope that all of us look out for those who are ready to be drafted while also seizing opportunities to expand our own influence and, ultimately, our own educational legacy.

REFERENCE

Johnson, S.M. & the Project on the Next Generation of Teachers. (2004). *Finders and keepers: Helping new teachers survive and thrive in our schools* (1st ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass. ■



Build leadership through e-learning programs

Learning Forward's 2012-13 e-learning series resumes in January with programs designed to strengthen leadership capacity of educators across all levels.

Beginning Jan. 17, author and national school improvement consultant Linda Munger facilitates *Building Capacity With School Leadership Teams*, a five-week discussion of the school leadership team's role in building capacity through job-embedded, school-centered professional learning. Additional spring programs focus on increasing teacher effectiveness and student achievement through successful coaching, moving Learning Forward's Standards for Professional Learning into practice using new Innovation Configuration

maps, and improving leadership and classroom practice. E-learning programs feature weekly live, facilitator-led sessions, plus follow-up activities and discussions on the Learning Exchange. Programs are \$199 for Learning

Forward members and \$249 for nonmembers. Visit www.learningforward.org/learning-opportunities/e-learning-series for more information and to register for one of these programs.

UPCOMING E-LEARNING PROGRAMS

Jan. 17-Feb. 13: *Building Capacity With School Leadership Teams*, facilitated by Linda Munger.

Feb. 18-March 22: *Coaching Matters*, facilitated by Chris Bryan, Heather Clifton, Cindy Harrison, and Joellen Killion.

Feb. 27-March 13: *Improving Leadership and Classroom Practices* (a three-week program in partnership with Success at the Core).

April 1-May 3: *Tools for Moving Standards Into Practice*, facilitated by Jacqueline Kennedy and Patricia Roy.

LEARNING FORWARD CALENDAR

Jan. 31, 2013: Proposal deadline for Learning Forward's 2013 Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas.

March 15, 2013: Apply to join the next cohort of Learning School Alliance schools.

March 15, 2013: Apply to join Academy Class of 2015.

July 21-24, 2013: Learning Forward's 2013 Summer Conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

CONGRATULATIONS, AWARD WINNERS



**EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PRACTICE
(DISTRICT-LEVEL)**

Andrew Szczepaniak

Director of professional development

Gilbert Public Schools
Chandler, Ariz.



**EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PRACTICE
(SCHOOL-LEVEL)**

Eric Sheninger

Principal

New Milford High School
New Milford, N.J.



LEADING FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Cynthia Johnson

Assistant professor and
director of principal certification

Gonzaga University
Spokane, Wash.



ADVANCING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Michelle Prytula

Assistant professor,
educational administration

University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



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

BUSINESS OFFICE

504 S. Locust St.
Oxford, OH 45056
513-523-6029, 800-727-7288
Fax: 513-523-0638
office@learningforward.org
www.learningforward.org

LEARNING FORWARD STAFF

Executive director

Stephanie Hirsh
stephanie.hirsh@learningforward.org

Director of business services

Leslie Miller
leslie.miller@learningforward.org

Director of learning

Carol François
carol.francois@learningforward.org

Director of strategy and development

Frederick Brown
frederick.brown@learningforward.org

Director, Center for Results

M. René Islas
rene.islas@learningforward.org

Director of communications

Tracy Crow
tracy.crow@learningforward.org

Associate director of e-learning

Tom Manning
tom.manning@learningforward.org

Associate director of strategic initiatives

Jacqueline Kennedy
jacqueline.kennedy@learningforward.org

Distinguished senior fellow

Hayes Mizell
hmizell@gmail.com

Scholar laureate

Shirley Hord
shirley.hord@learningforward.org

Senior advisor

Joellen Killion
joellen.killion@learningforward.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kenneth Salim (2013) President
Julie Blaine (2013)
Mark Diaz (2012) Past president
Clara Howitt (2014)
Amanda Rivera (2012)
Jeff Ronneberg (2014) President-elect
Granger Ward (2013)
Myra Whitney (2014)

Pledge to change lives — and a chance to win a prize

Educators are game changers. They impact the lives of students, families, teachers, administrators, and the community.

The Learning Forward Foundation is committed to supporting educators who are passionate about learning, innovation, and ensuring that every student succeeds. The foundation supports teachers and administrators in their quest to change lives by providing grants and scholarships.

The foundation's 2012 fundraising goal is \$50,000. Every dollar donated to the foundation goes to educators who are game changers through grants and scholarships.

One such game changer is Adrienne Tedesco, instructional coach for Gwinnett County (Ga.) Public Schools. Tedesco is a 2012 recipient of the Chidley Fund Academy Scholarship, which provides funding to support participation in the Learning Forward Academy. As part of her work in the Academy, Tedesco is working to increase collaboration and instructional planning processes during common planning time in her district.

To thank donors for their contributions, Learning Forward will hold a Donor Appreciation Drawing. For every \$25 donated through Dec. 31, donors' names will be entered into the drawing one time.

Prizes include \$1,000 from Learning Forward to be used for conference registration or Learning Forward products or services. Additional prizes include two gift baskets of beauty products, worth more than \$500 each, donated by Philosophy and a two-night stay at a vacation home near Phoenix. The drawing will be held in January, and winners will be notified by email.



Adrienne Tedesco, instructional coach for Gwinnett County (Ga.) Public Schools, observes students and gathers data during a lesson study cycle as part of her work with the Learning Forward Academy. Tedesco is a 2012 recipient of the Chidley Fund Academy Scholarship, which provides funding to support participation in the Learning Forward Academy.

HOW TO DONATE

Go to www.learningforward.org/foundation to donate online or download a donation card that you can mail or fax.



2012

Conference Sponsors

THANK YOU

to our generous sponsors

LEGACY

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*



SILVER



BRONZE



Learning Forward expresses appreciation to the sponsors of the 2012 Annual Conference in Boston.