

@ learning forward

HOW CAN LEARNING FORWARD HELP YOU?

Learning Forward is looking for feedback on how best to help members achieve their goals.

To join in the conversation,
please visit the Learning Exchange at
<http://community.learningforward.org/Home>.

Offering you what you need to improve:

Learning Forward wants to advance members' careers and help solve your problems of practice. *What input can you offer to ensure we stay on the right track?*

Documenting impact of professional learning:

"Where's the research documenting the link between professional learning and student results?" This question is on everyone's mind. *How can Learning Forward gather stories and research that help us build a definitive link?*

Leveraging technology to advance professional learning:

The iPD strand at the conference and in our ongoing work demonstrates Learning Forward's desire to expose members to new technologies that support learning. *How can Learning Forward continue to support the application of emerging technologies?*

Meeting your learning priorities:

Learning Forward is committed to meeting your needs for professional learning throughout the year. *How can Learning Forward best support your year-round continuous learning through a range of in-person and virtual products and services?*

Keeping you on the cutting edge:

Learning Forward is reinventing its publications mix to better serve you. *What topics and formats are most important to serve your needs now and into the future?*

The changing value of membership:

Change seems to be happening at an increasing rate, and what you value most from an association is likely changing as well. *What membership benefits and opportunities are most important to you today?*

Going global: Learning Forward seeks to serve educators worldwide. However, the majority of members are in North America. *How can Learning Forward best position itself internationally?*

Impacting federal and state policies:

Learning Forward contends that good policy affects better practice. *What should be key elements of Learning Forward's policy agenda?*

book club

FOCUS ON TEACHING

Using Video for High-Impact Instruction

By Jim Knight

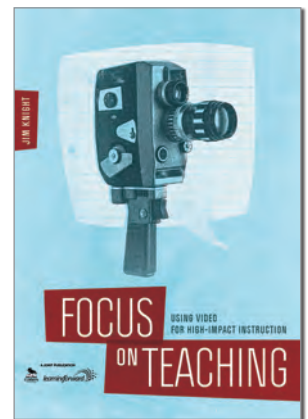
Just as professional athletes improve their performance by watching videos of themselves and others in action, educators can do the same. Jim Knight presents a clear process for using video to promote professional growth and teacher effectiveness.

With online clips of educators modeling and discussing how they use videos for professional learning, this book shows how videos can help educators:

- Maximize the effectiveness of instructional coaching, professional learning communities, and authentic teacher evaluation;
- Encourage self-coaching and peer-coaching; and

- Develop a shared understanding of what quality teaching really looks like.

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 March 15. For more information about this or any membership package, call 800-727-7288 or email office@learningforward.org.





Collaboration and commitment turn belief into innovative solutions

I believe in the power of professional learning. But belief, by itself, is not enough. To be effective, professional learning must also be driven by commitment, dedication, and deliberate action. In the state of Missouri, that means, “Show me, please!”

The Central Regional Professional Development Center in Missouri, where I serve as director, partners with 73 districts in the region to help implement high-quality professional learning. We have many district success stories, but I’d like to showcase one that demonstrates not only belief, but also the innovation and dedication it takes to rise to the top.

The center’s long-term partnership with Grain Valley R-V School District, a suburban district serving 3,845 students east of Kansas City, grew its roots a few years ago at Learning Forward’s conference in Washington, D.C. At dinner one night, assistant superintendent Bryan McDonald and I were discussing the district’s goal of implementing a K-12 focus on balanced literacy. The district had already begun professional development efforts around Reading Workshop, and McDonald wanted to target literacy’s companion, Writing Workshop. His teachers, he said, were understandably hesitant.

Julie Blaine is president of Learning Forward’s board of trustees.

on board JULIE BLAINE

As McDonald talked, I was riveted by his story. I know all too well that implementing a districtwide initiative is bigger than difficult, but *sustaining* an initiative can be a real snag. It was at this moment my idea for a collaborative districtwide writing design team took root.

McDonald and I met often in the next few months to create an innovative design team known as Writers’ Implementation Network. We developed an application process for selecting top candidates that included a writing sample describing why they should be selected as a team member. Today, 12 teacher leaders from across the district meet regularly to collaboratively design and implement model writing classrooms. Writers’ Implementation Network leaders assist colleagues in developing common writing prompts and scoring guides, designing lessons with common objectives, and, most importantly, examining and scoring student work. These master teachers demonstrate effective writing strategies in classrooms with students and apprentice all district English language arts teachers.

Because of the team’s success in implementing and supporting the districtwide Writing Workshop initiative, district scores on the

Missouri assessment for writing continue to increase. To add to their success story, the Grain Valley Writers’ Implementation Network team was also selected to showcase the district’s professional development design at the 2013 Learning Forward Summer Conference.

It’s true — we have to do more than just believe to get outstanding results. I see the Standards for Professional Learning at work in Grain Valley. The term “job-embedded” has real meaning for Writers’ Implementation Network. I love facilitating this group monthly through discussing professional journals, troubleshooting implementation snags, examining student work, and diving into data.

Writers’ Implementation Network confirms for me that when teachers have time to collaborate, belief lends way to innovative solutions for student success. Writers’ Implementation Network leaders are dedicated learners alongside district writing colleagues and their students. The difficult, authentic work of Writing Workshop across the district is now full of professional commitment and deliberate actions. I am proud to work beside them. ■





THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ASSOCIATION

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

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DIGITAL RESOURCE LIBRARY FOR EDUCATORS

The Digital Opportunity Consortium, National Education Association, New Hampshire IHE Network, and EBSCO have formed the Habit of Mind partnership to equip future and current educators with resources to use high-quality research resources to improve learning and practice. Learning Forward members can have free access to this database through much of 2014.

Access the resources at www.digitallopportunityforall.org/library.html (case-sensitive password = EBSCO).

Apply for foundation grants

The Learning Forward Foundation is accepting applications for grants and scholarships that offer educators opportunities to develop their expertise in leading professional learning within their schools and districts and to engage them in the broader Learning Forward community for ongoing professional collaboration and support. Here are the grants and scholarships available.

Learning Forward Foundation Affiliate Grant provides a Learning Forward affiliate the opportunity to further its work within its respective state, region, or province.

Application deadline is April 15.
For more information, visit <http://learningforward.org/foundation/scholarships-and-grants>.

The Principal as Leader of Professional Learning supports the accelerating growth of a principal who has successfully led an underachieving school for two years.

Learning Forward Foundation Team Grant supports teams in developing a professional learning project that advances Learning Forward's purpose.

Chidley Fund Academy Scholarships develop leadership in professional learning by providing two scholarships annually for tuition to participate in the Learning Forward Academy.

Patsy Hochman Academy Scholarship develops leadership in professional learning by providing a scholarship annually for a recipient to participate in the Learning Forward Academy.

LEARNING FORWARD CALENDAR

- Feb. 15:** Deadline to submit articles for the October 2014 issue of *JSD*. Theme: Evolving role of central office.
- March 1:** Apply to join the first all-Canadian cohort of the Learning Forward Academy.
- March 15:** Apply to join the next cohort of Learning School Alliance schools.
- March 15:** Apply to join Academy Class of 2016.
- April 15:** Deadline to submit articles for the December 2014 issue of *JSD*. Theme: Teacher evaluation.