



Learning Forward paves the way to a new future

The board of trustees anticipates an exciting year ahead for Learning Forward. We look forward to working with Executive Director Stephanie Hirsh and the senior leadership team to develop a new vision and plans for the organization.

The board is responsible for reviewing and approving the final strategy and will do everything in its power to help implement it. My primary responsibility is to maximize the value of your investment in a Learning Forward membership and to maximize the value of Learning Forward's investment in you.

How will I do this?

- Working with my board colleagues and the senior leadership team, we will review Learning Forward's new mission and vision statement. Our goal is to ensure that it's clear, inspiring, actionable, and applies to all stakeholders, whether they are agency consultants, veteran educators, or newly hired novice educators.
- We'll review Learning Forward's annual operating plan to ensure we're satisfying members' short- and long-term needs.
- We'll engage in discussions with staff and membership about where Learning Forward needs to be five, 10, or even 20 years from now.

Deborah Jackson is president of Learning Forward's board of trustees.

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- In addition, the board will work with the leadership team to identify emerging leaders.

Those are my general responsibilities as your board president. There are several significant areas I'm eager to focus on over the next year.

- A key priority will be **continued professional development and support for our core membership groups**. One of the means for doing this is through *JSD*, a valuable professional learning tool that focuses on ways to increase quality leadership and organizational knowledge. This issue's topic is coaching, and, as a leadership coach for my district, I value my own professional learning. Coaching teachers and leaders to develop their leadership competencies ensures schoolwide coherence, increases their effectiveness in school roles, and builds their capacity to successfully plan, implement, and evaluate their impact on teacher effectiveness and student achievement.
- Another goal is to see us reach out beyond our core membership — to **engage all levels of our profession, both nationally and globally**. For this to happen, Learning Forward's board and staff will need to make the organization as inclusive

as possible for all education professionals.

- Growth will require us to **identify what's next for our profession and prepare our membership to respond** to those future challenges. For this to happen, we'll need to strengthen our networking and outreach to more external stakeholders.
- I want to ensure that our voice is always a part of the local, national, and international conversation.

By achieving these goals, Learning Forward will continue to be the world's leading voice on professional development. The work that Learning Forward's board and staff engage in over the next year will ensure that our general membership and affiliates are prepared for that responsibility.

Stakeholders like you make a profound impact on this profession and the people and organizations you serve. I know what you do, why you do it, and the difference you make in districts, classrooms, and educational agencies.

More than anything, I am honored to serve as your primary advocate at every level and opportunity possible. My commitment is to communicate with you openly, sincerely, and transparently to advance our profession.

Thank you, members, affiliates, and volunteers for everything you do. And thank you for the privilege to serve you in this role during the next year. ■