

Group takes a fresh look at adult learning

Rethinking adult learning is essential to the redesign of learning for children.

Learning Forward is facilitating a diverse group of leading thinkers, designers, and practitioners called the PD Brain Trust to inspire new thinking and generate new expertise about how to create demand for — and deliver — redesigned systems of support that guarantee all educators have access to effective professional learning.

The PD Brain Trust is a collaborative professional learning community, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, of individuals from organizations that have demonstrated leadership in all aspects of K-12 education.

PD Brain Trust partners:

- **Contribute to a professional learning community** where partners learn from each other and from leaders in other fields that

focus on changing human behavior;

- **Commit to openly share their own challenges** in the creation and support of professional learning systems;
- **Co-create new designs and solutions for professional learning systems** that can achieve new outcomes for individual learners, participating organizations, and networks of partners across the K-12 continuum; and
- **Design a strategy to advance professional learning redesign** and move people and organizations toward new practices and behaviors in the field.

PD Brain Trust partners first met in November 2014 in partnership with the Long Beach Unified School District, a national leader in the creation of professional learning practices that have led to significant improvements in student learning. In March, the group met in Cary, North Carolina, in partnership with SAS, IDEO, and the



Wake County Public School System, a leader in personalized learning for educators.

The next meeting is scheduled for June in partnership with the Florida State Department of Education, a national leader in developing a state system of professional learning.



PD BRAIN TRUST PARTNERS

Members of the PD Brain Trust are among the field's leading thinkers, designers, and practitioners. They represent advocacy and research organizations, educator associations, foundations, school systems, higher education institutions, and state and provincial education agencies.

Roderick Allen, British Columbia Ministry of Education

Barnett Berry, Center for Teaching Quality

Catherine Brown, Center for American Progress

Karen Cator, Digital Promise

Timothy Daly, TNTF

Jennifer Davis, National Center on Time & Learning

Dan Domenech, American Association of School Administrators

Segun Eubanks, National Education Association

Stephen Fink, University of Washington Center for Educational Leadership

Crystal Gonzales, Helmsley Charitable Trust

Tabitha Grossman, Hope Street Group

Tomeka Hart, Southern Education Foundation

Bryan Hassel, Public Impact

Anthony Jackson, Asia Society

Susan Moxley, Lake County Schools

William Olsen, University of Chicago Urban Education Institute

Donald Pemberton, University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning

Rosita Ramirez, NALEO Educational Fund

Wendy Robinson, Fort Wayne Community Schools

David Silver, RTI International

Marla Ucelli-Kashyap, American Federation of Teachers

Kate Walsh, National Council on Teacher Quality

Michael Watson, Delaware Department of Education

book club

THE COLLABORATIVE ANALYSIS OF STUDENT LEARNING:
Professional Learning That Promotes Success for All

By Amy Colton, Georgea Langer, and Loretta Goff

This book is a comprehensive guide to implementing a research-based approach to professional learning that drives educator effectiveness and promotes learning for every student.

Aligned with Learning Forward's Standards for Professional

Learning, the CASL (Collaborative Analysis of Student Learning) model has been directly linked to student improvement. The book includes step-by-step guidance to implementation supported by tools, protocols, and examples.

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

WANTED: Your story

Regardless of the theme of an issue, *JSD* editors are always happy to consider articles about these topics:

- Professional learning that leads to student success.
- Common Core and how professional learning supports effective implementation.
- Use of technology in professional learning.
- Content-specific professional learning — how your learning supports student advancement in mathematics, science, literacy, language arts, social studies, music, art, etc.
- Role-specific professional learning addressing the needs of principals, teachers, instructional coaches, administrators, etc.
- Population-specific professional learning — for example, what professional learning helps practitioners support English language learners, students in high-poverty areas, students with special needs, students in rural or urban areas, etc.
- How your professional learning aligns with or illustrates the Standards for Professional Learning.

Learn more at www.learningforward.org/publications/jsd/writers-guidelines.



Learning Forward affiliates

Affiliates offer members the opportunity to expand their professional development networks by connecting with other individuals by location. More than 35 state and provincial affiliates provide services and programs that connect staff developers within individual states or provinces or regions. Contact Learning Forward Deputy Executive Director Frederick Brown (frederick.brown@learningforward.org) if you're interested in facilitating a new affiliate in a state currently not served by a state chapter.

TOP 10 REASONS TO FORM OR JOIN AN AFFILIATE:

1. Gain access to the most up-to-date information on professional learning.
2. Grow professionally through educational program offerings.
3. Promote a greater appreciation for the impact of educator learning on student learning.
4. Strengthen professional learning so that teaching, leadership, and student success improve.
5. Make a difference in your own school, district, and state or province.
6. Influence state/provincial and school system policies and practices related to professional learning.
7. Network and form relationships with other professionals as part of a learning community.
8. Grow as a leader and offer your own leadership skills.
9. Foster and maintain a code of ethics for practice.
10. Be affiliated with an organization that is recognized internationally as the premier voice for professional learning.

Action alert on ESEA

Thank you to all who responded to Learning Forward's action alert last month. Congress is at work this year to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Many came forward to sign Learning Forward's petition encouraging policymakers to be sure the law includes funds focused solely on effective professional learning.

Learning Forward's advocacy efforts related to ESEA reauthorization will continue in the upcoming weeks, though it is difficult to predict the precise path this process will follow. As in past years, Learning Forward will encourage lawmakers to include at least elements of Learning Forward's definition of professional learning in the legislation.

In the meantime, watch for any additional action alerts and see related resources at www.learningforward.org/get-involved/advocacy, including an archived webinar describing Learning Forward's recent related advocacy efforts.

SPRING WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUES

Join authors and leaders in the field for webinars on key topics that will prepare teacher, school, and system leaders to successfully implement professional learning that increases teaching effectiveness and student achievement.



Webinars are free for Learning Forward members. Nonmembers may attend one webinar for \$20 or three for \$50. Members also get access to the complete webinar archive and can participate in facilitated online discussions and other activities following each webinar on the Learning Exchange.

Upcoming webinars include:

- April 30: Jan Chappuis, Assessment for Learning
- May 14: Alan Blankstein and Pedro Noguera, Courageous Leadership
- May 21: Gayle Gregory, Data-Driven Differentiation

Learn more and register at www.learningforward.org/learning-opportunities/webinars.

LEARNING FORWARD CALENDAR

- May 15:** Manuscript deadline for the December 2015 issue of *JSD*. Theme: Professional learning for literacy.
- May 31:** Last day to save \$75 on registration for the 2015 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.
- June 1-3:** PD Brain Trust meets in partnership with Florida State Department of Education.
- July 16-19:** Learning Forward Summer Institute, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Oct. 6-7:** Learning Forward Fall Institute, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Dec. 5-9:** 2015 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.



THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ASSOCIATION

LEARNING FORWARD'S VISION: Excellent teaching and learning every day.

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