



Members of the Braulio Alonso High School instructional leadership team include: Front row, from left: Robyn Sullivan, Christine Meitzler, Shawna Berger, Christina Lyle, Michele Dailey; middle row, from left: Kelly Pierino, Sue Koester, Dylana Robertson, Kate Tancrell, Francesca Sciuillo, Julia Spalding, Maria Gomez, Ken Hart; and back row, from left: Alan Turnquist, Larissa McCoy Mitti, Jay Chantlos. Not pictured: Courtney Ward, Denon Floor, Elizabeth Morgan, Gina Rodriguez, Ravyn Hunt.

## Tampa team wins 2015 Shirley Hord Award

**T**he instructional leadership team from Braulio Alonso School in Tampa, Florida, is the winner of the 2015 Shirley Hord Learning Team Award. This award is given annually to a team of teachers that demonstrates Learning Forward's definition of professional learning in action.

Teams from schools across the United States submitted nominations that included videos of the teams engaging in professional learning and documentation of their work and its impact on student learning. A team of reviewers evaluated the submissions using Learning Forward's Learning School Innovation Configuration map.

"Hillsborough County Schools has made a commitment to being an innovative professional learning system, and this commitment is reflected in the work of the instructional

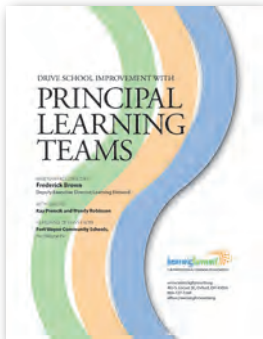
To view the video submission of the winning team and learn more about the award, visit [www.learningforward.org/get-involved/awards/2015-hord-award-winner](http://www.learningforward.org/get-involved/awards/2015-hord-award-winner).

leadership team at Braulio Alonso High School," said Stephanie Hirsh, Learning Forward's executive director. "The team's collaborative leadership is contributing to a culture of continuous improvement that is improving teaching practices and student achievement."

Alonso High School is the largest school in Hillsborough County Schools, the eighth-largest school system in the nation. The school's instructional leadership team is a cross-curricular team focused on implementing a system of professional learning and support to improve results for all learners.

The award, which is sponsored by Corwin Press, includes funds to support representatives of the winning team to participate in Learning Forward's 2015 Annual Conference, \$2,500 to support collaborative professional learning, and a gift of Corwin books for the school's professional library.

# Drive school improvement with principal learning teams



Principal learning is often overlooked as an element of change and continuous improvement. In a Learning Forward webinar hosted by Education Week, see how Fort Wayne Community Schools in Indiana established

a core leadership team of principals and district leaders who are key to ensuring all schools are grounded in adult

learning designs that result in a positive impact on students.

Learn how your central office can build a principal leadership team that:

- Strengthens the entire corps of principals through a collaborative community of practice and peer support;
- Coaches and supports its peers in implementing curriculum leadership roles, responsibilities, and expectations; and
- Strengthens leadership capacity of principals, deepening their ability to be leaders of high-quality

To view the webinar, register at <http://bit.ly/1lpltdV>.

professional learning. Frederick Brown, Learning Forward's deputy executive director, moderates the discussion with Learning Forward senior consultant Kay Pscencik and Wendy Robinson, superintendent of Fort Wayne Community Schools.

Slides from the presentation and tools for principal learning teams are also available for download.

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<b>g. Total distribution</b>	4,954	5,133
<b>Percent paid and/or requested circulation</b>	89%	86%
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*Tracy Crow*

**book club**

HAVING HARD CONVERSATIONS 2.0:  
Extending the Learning  
*By Jennifer Abrams*

**T**his update of the author's original *Hard Conversations* book is designed to promote a deeper understanding of what needs to happen before, during, and after hard conversations. The author emphasizes the critical need for greater clarity around the goals and desired outcomes of hard conversations.

This version includes topics that weren't addressed in the first book, including filters of perception such as race and gender, the significance

of organizational politics, productive responses, and effective listening strategies.

The book comes with an array of tools, templates, and checklists and a variety of vignettes and case studies based on Abrams' own practice.

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



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Excellent teaching and learning every day.

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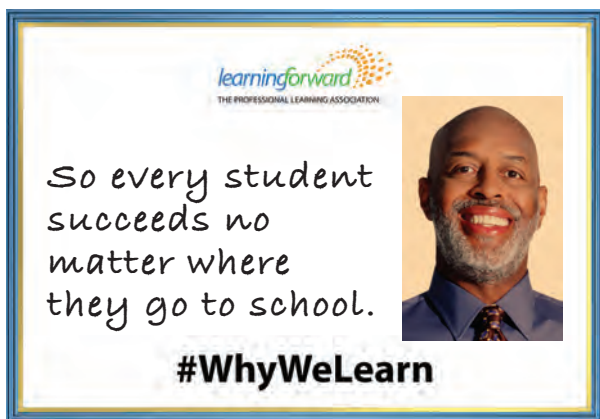
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# WHY DO YOU LEARN?

At this year's Annual Conference, Learning Forward launched a social media campaign to capture with words and images why educators embrace their own learning.

Using the #whywelearn, we're asking members and friends to share in their own words what motivates them to improve each and every day in school. Visit Twitter and search on #whywelearn to see what learning leaders have shared already, then share your own.



## LEARNING FORWARD CALENDAR

- Jan. 14, 2016:** Webinar: Drivers of Equitable Achievement in K-12 STEM Programs. *Free for members.*
- Jan. 15, 2016:** Manuscript deadline for the June 2016 issue of *JSD*. Theme: Professional learning basics & fundamentals.
- Jan. 26, 2016:** Webinar: Transforming Professional Learning: Statewide District Collaboration. *Free for members.*
- Feb. 1, 2016:** Deadline to apply to present at Learning Forward's 2016 Annual Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- Feb. 15, 2016:** Manuscript deadline for the August 2016 issue of *JSD*. Theme: Idea lab: Innovations from the field.
- March 15, 2016:** Applications due for the next class of Learning Forward Academy.