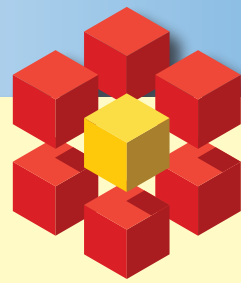


“It’s not about the wisdom you bring to the group, but the wisdom *within the group* that you unlock so that they can become learning leaders for themselves.”



advice

FROM LEARNING PROFESSIONALS

We asked Learning Forward members around the country for the counsel they’d like to give to new learning leaders.

Dale Hair

Senior consultant
Affiliate coordinator/coach
Learning Forward

JSD: What do you wish you had known when you first began your journey as a learning leader?



Hair: It’s not about the wisdom *you* bring to the group, but the wisdom *within the group* that you unlock so that they can become learning leaders for themselves.

JSD: What is the one crucial piece of advice you would give to those just

starting out in the professional learning world?

Hair: If at all possible, sign up for the Learning Forward Academy when you first become a learning leader. This experience will do more to help you gain the firsthand knowledge you need and to connect you with a group of like-minded leaders who will serve as professional colleagues throughout your career.

JSD: What fundamental resource do you find yourself going back to often, and therefore you would be quickest to recommend (and why)?

Hair: The Ford Middle School video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=aM4ExyARNNQ) is perfect for showing others what is meant

by a learning community. The case studies in *A Playbook for Professional Learning* by Stephanie Hirsh and Shirley Hord (Learning Forward, 2012) are invaluable when used as a jigsaw activity to build an understanding of the standards in a practical setting.

JSD: What have we not asked that you would most like to say to beginning learning leaders?

Hair: Sometimes others may not value the important role that professional learning plays in improving teaching and student learning. You will need to be a lifetime advocate and passionate purveyor of evidence that demonstrates that value. ■