

## LEARNING EXCHANGE

<http://community.learningforward.org>

Through the Learning Exchange, Learning Forward members have access to a range of communities, including the Learning Lounge, where members recently shared their stories about professional learning's impact on practice. Join the Annual Conference community to get a deeper look at what the conference has to offer, connect with colleagues, and view discussion topics, blogs, and resources. Register for webinars focused on topics affecting today's professional learning leaders featuring leaders in the field or view archived webinars. Keep up with current events through Professional Learning News. To join the Learning Exchange, simply log in, customize your profile and privacy preferences, and adjust your subscription settings. Then you're ready to start networking.



## EDUCATION NATION

<http://bit.ly/17yg65b>

*Learning Forward Executive Director Stephanie Hirsh asked a panel of education journalists why daily continuous learning and collaboration isn't given more attention in media and policy:*

**"T**eachers tell us the one thing that they lack is the time to learn and collaborate with their colleagues. In the last session,

we heard about how great ideas need to be shared from classroom to classroom and school to school. We don't talk about that as a consistent national policy. I'd like to hear your opinion about that."

Watch Hirsh speak and hear the responses in this clip (at 14:59).



## TOOLS FOR LEARNING SCHOOLS

[www.learningforward.org/publications/tools-for-learning-schools](http://www.learningforward.org/publications/tools-for-learning-schools)

Celebrations are an important component for high-quality learning communities and critical to effective change. In the fall 2013 issue of *Tools for Learning Schools*, read how a middle school principal makes celebrations a norm in her school's learning community and brings people together during change efforts to celebrate each other's professional learning. Use the tools in this issue to plan your own celebrations. Using *A Dozen Reasons to Celebrate*, educators pause and reflect on their accomplishments or create a new beginning. With *Celebration Brainstorming*, participants discuss rationales for celebrations and recognition. *Planning Celebrations* engages participants in reflecting on powerful celebrations and planning celebrations for the year.



## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

<http://bit.ly/1arcnHu>

How can teachers distinguish among all the professional learning opportunities that claim to be aligned with Common Core standards? In this blog post, Learning Forward Executive Director Stephanie Hirsh suggests teachers first clarify their needs and seek guidance and support from colleagues. If internal expertise and support don't exist to address the identified goals and needs, then teachers should look beyond the school for professional learning opportunities. Hirsh offers eight sets of guiding questions for evaluating professional learning options, using the Standards for Professional Learning, to assist teachers in making the best decisions possible.

