

TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Valeria Brown of Winter Springs, Florida, and Sharon Contreras of Greensboro, North Carolina, have been elected to the Learning Forward Board of Trustees. Their terms began at the conclusion of the 2016 Annual Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Scott Laurence is the new president of the board. John Eyolfson is immediate past president, and Alan Ingram is president-elect. All are returning board members, as are Steve Cardwell and E. Leigh Wall.



Laurence



Ingram

VALERIA BROWN is coordinator of Leadership Pathways for Seminole County Public Schools in Florida, where she supports the implementation of a comprehensive approach to building internal leadership capacity for teachers and administrators. Brown has been with the district since 2008 and has served as language arts and gifted education teacher at Jackson Heights Middle School, where she earned the title of 2013 Seminole County Teacher of the Year. She served as professional learning facilitator from 2013 to 2015, where she designed and facilitated over 200 district



Brown

and school-based professional learning experiences. Brown is also the founder and chair of the Seminole County Schools Diversity Council, where she leads a steering committee of 14 administrators and teacher leaders in recruiting and retaining teachers of color in Seminole County. Brown is a member of the 2017 Learning Forward Host Committee. She says that her vision is “one where educators on all levels seek Learning Forward as the standard-bearer for high-quality professional learning. I also believe that Learning Forward should be one of the first voices sought out when addressing the complex problems of adult learning.”

SHARON CONTRERAS is superintendent of schools for Guilford County Schools in Greensboro, North Carolina. She began her career as a high school English teacher before serving as principal, area superintendent, and assistant superintendent in Rockford, Illinois. She has also served as chief academic officer for the Clayton County Public Schools in Georgia and in the Providence Public Schools in Rhode Island. In 2011, Contreras became the first woman of color in New York to serve as superintendent in one of the state’s largest districts when she took over the



Contreras

Syracuse City School District. She was recently invited to participate in a White House convening on school discipline and briefed members of the U.S. Congress on implementing fair disciplinary practices in schools.

“As a longtime member of Learning Forward, I believe passionately in the power of professional learning to improve educational and life outcomes for all children,” she says. “As a veteran educator, principal, and district leader who has benefited greatly from the organization, my vision is that Learning Forward will become the nation’s recognized thought leader on creating more equitable and socially just classrooms, schools, and districts. As part of this vision, I believe in expanding Learning Forward’s sphere of influence beyond K-12 education to elected officials, think tanks, corporate leaders, and reporters who currently have an outsized influence on educational policy and practice.”