

MetLife Foundation



Contacts:

For MetLife Foundation:

Sarah Belkner Faria, (401) 827-3906

sfaria@metlife.com

For NSDC:

Joellen Killion, (303) 432-0958

joellen.killion@nsdc.org

MetLife Foundation Grant Supports National Staff Development Council's Learning School Alliance

DALLAS—December 22, 2008—The National Staff Development Council has received a \$225,000 grant from the MetLife Foundation to help strengthen effective teamwork in schools. The grant will fund development of The Learning School Alliance, to support and connect schools committed to collaborative leadership consistent with NSDC's standards for staff development.

“Professional development that engages teachers in collaborative learning within their schools using a cycle of continuous improvement fosters collective responsibility for student success,” said Stephanie Hirsh, executive director of NSDC. “The Learning School Alliance provides support for schools to implement these practices.”

Specifically, NSDC will develop and field test new materials to support school leadership teams in working together, growing professionally, and improving student achievement. It will create a learning forum to help school teams nationwide share their ideas, experience and success. The project will also incorporate and share findings from NSDC's Multi-Year Study of the State of Professional Learning in the U.S. and the perspectives of teachers and principals documented in the MetLife Survey of the American Teacher series.

“It is clear that NSDC has developed a distinctive capacity to connect research, policy, and practice in useful ways that can strengthen teaching and learning day to day,” said Sibyl Jacobson, president of MetLife Foundation. “We are pleased to support NSDC's work to encourage and enable effective collaborative leadership in schools.”

Lessons from the Learning School Alliance will be shared broadly in NSDC publications, conferences, and workshops, as well as in a special Learning School Toolkit.

—more—

About National Staff Development Council

The National Staff Development Council's purpose is ensuring that every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves. NSDC is the only education association working solely to increase student achievement through more effective professional development. For more information about the impact of high-quality professional learning, visit www.nsd.org.

About MetLife Foundation

MetLife Foundation supports education, health, civic, and cultural organizations. It seeks to increase opportunities for young people to succeed, give students and teachers a voice in improving education, create connections between schools and communities, and develop leadership. Its funding for education is informed by findings from the annual *The MetLife Survey of the American Teacher*. For more information about MetLife Foundation, see www.metlife.org.

###