

## Partnership supports college and career readiness for low-income students

Learning Forward is working with the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) to ensure students graduate from high school ready for post-secondary success. NCCEP supports grantees of Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). GEAR UP provides funding to increase the college and career readiness of low-income students in communities nationwide.

Learning Forward will assist in the development of a professional learning system for GEAR UP grantees. Grantees will experience in-person professional learning and have access to online learning modules that will prepare them for the work.

Learning Forward is designing these professional learning training modules, along with tools, resources, and assessments, for grantees who serve in a variety of job roles — college access advisors, directors, coordinators, evaluators, and parent and family engagement specialists.

By joining with NCCEP in designing this professional learning system, Learning Forward is helping ensure that GEAR UP grantees have the necessary skills, capabilities, and infrastructure to make informed decisions based on sound data, research, and evaluations.

Learn more at [www.edpartnerships.org](http://www.edpartnerships.org).

## CELEBRATE STEPHANIE HIRSH AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Learning Forward will host an event honoring Executive Director Stephanie Hirsh from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas. All participants are invited to join the celebration, which will include music and dancing.

The event is to thank Hirsh, who is retiring after 12 years as executive director and 31 years with Learning Forward.



Hirsh

All proceeds from ticket sales and contributions at the door will support the Learning Forward Foundation, which provides scholarships and other direct support for educators to pursue their professional growth.

Have you registered for the conference yet? Participants who register by October 31 can save up to \$50 per person. The conference, which runs Dec. 1-5, will feature keynote speakers such as Janice Jackson and Glenn Singleton and more than 300 concurrent sessions addressing the most pressing issues for education leaders.

To register, visit [conference.learningforward.org](http://conference.learningforward.org).

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING FORWARD MEMBERS

We are always inspired by the work our members do to create excellent teaching and learning, and we want to share your accomplishments. This month, we recognize two Learning Forward members who have been leaders in their communities.

**Kathy O'Neill** recently retired after serving for more than 30 years as executive director of Learning Forward's Georgia affiliate. Throughout her career, she led learning in numerous roles, including teacher, curriculum coordinator, superintendent, college professor, instructional technology center director, and director of leadership development.

To recognize and honor O'Neill's advocacy for high-quality professional learning and leadership, Learning Forward Georgia has created a Kathy O'Neill Scholarship that will fund the tuition for one participant to attend each of

its executive leadership program cohorts in the future.

We also congratulate **Maria Warren**, principal in Loudon County Public Schools in Tennessee, who is one of nine finalists for Supervisor of the Year in Tennessee. The award is based on a record of implementing innovative programs and managing and motivating students and faculties. Warren is a Learning Forward member and participant in the Redesign PD Community.



Warren

We invite you to share your news and nominate colleagues you think we should highlight in future issues of *The Learning Professional* and other Learning Forward publications.