



BEING FORWARD

Leigh Wall

Everyone deserves the opportunity to learn and grow

Growth and development are fundamental to teaching and learning. As educators, we will always be called on to lead transitions and nurture progress as we strive to prepare students for future life and workforce successes. Embracing and leading transitions ensures that we are able to provide the very best educational experiences for all students, teachers, and families.

Some educational transitions are by design. For example, cohorts of students move through systems each year in intentional patterns. Others occur because of the need to adjust for societal needs, with economic shifts, globalization, and other trends. Each year, we also have the opportunity to adapt, based on knowledge evolution around the best way to develop our schools, districts, and organizations. As knowledge and the world change, our students need us to embrace transition.

Accordingly, for 50 years, Learning Forward has been responsive to the evolving needs of educators and students. We have updated our mission and approach when new information or insights emerge in education and society. For example, Learning Forward recently revised its organizational mission statement to have a more explicit focus on equity in education.



We have also affirmed our commitment to integrating a strong curriculum focus within professional learning in all areas.

At the same time, we have maintained a steady and consistent presence, advocating for quality professional learning, reinforcing the Standards for Professional Learning, and supporting educators' growth through a wide range of networks, consulting, publications, tools, and convenings. All of these efforts directly align with the goals we hold as professionals as we strive to increase learning expectations for all students across the U.S. and the world.

As I begin my term as president of the board of trustees, I know that Learning Forward will continue to achieve this balance of growth and continuity. Beginning 2019 with anticipation and hope for a most successful year, we must embrace transition and change and lead for progress in each area of teaching and

learning that we impact.

Our members and stakeholders — including each of you — make Learning Forward a strong and vital professional organization. As I scanned the large conference hall filled with educators from across the world during lunch at the Annual Conference in December, I was overwhelmingly inspired

by your passion, power, and potential and excited for unlimited opportunities that lie ahead for us all.

I am looking forward to a new year of learning in my role as trustee and school district superintendent. Everyone, in every role, deserves the opportunity to develop, learn, and grow in a manner that is meaningful and beneficial, not only for ourselves as professionals, but more critically, for the students we serve. Regardless of job titles and responsibilities, we are all committed to learning and growing our knowledge and skills for the benefit of our children.

I invite you to join me in making this year one of challenging questions, productive struggles, and new opportunities, while embracing the changes, transitions, and learning necessary for great progress in 2019.

Leigh Wall is president of Learning Forward. ■