



Members of the Health Sciences Middle and High College science team are, from left, Kim Elliot, Kasey Woollard, Cody O’Connell, Jeff Bonine, Kristin Speck, and Angie Hackman.

Shirley Hord Award winners

Congratulations to Health Sciences Middle and High College in San Diego, California, winner of the Shirley Hord Learning Team Award. The annual award, named for the late Shirley Hord and sponsored by Corwin, honors a school-based team that successfully implements a teacher-led cycle of continuous improvement.

Health Sciences was honored for its work promoting schoolwide literacy, especially through its science professional learning community (PLC). Recognizing that many students were entering the school below grade level in reading and not meeting English language arts standards, school leaders and staff committed to a focus on reading and writing throughout the curriculum, not just in English language arts classes.

The science department took up this challenge and dedicated its PLC efforts to improving strategies for close reading. The team set a SMART goal, observed English language arts teachers and learned from their strategies, conducted book studies, and examined both horizontal and vertical alignment as well as connections between Next Generation Science Standards and English language arts standards.

Health Sciences has seen schoolwide lexile growth of 162 and an increase in English language arts Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium scores.

Nancy Frey, director of academic programming at Health Sciences, said that she is impressed by the science PLC’s ability to model that “we all have collective responsibility for how our students do” and for “the ability to think about the whole child, which is uncommon in secondary schools.”

The award includes funds to support conference attendance for team members, \$2,500 to support collaborative professional learning, and a gift of Corwin books for the school’s library.

REMEMBERING DEBORAH CHILDS-BOWEN

Deborah Childs-Bowen was a decades-long Learning Forward friend and leader. When she died last December, our organization and our field lost a professional learning champion and friend.

Childs-Bowen was elected to the NSDC (now Learning Forward) board of trustees in 2001, serving as president in 2005. In 2010, she received the NSDC Distinguished Service Award.

Over the years, she co-chaired a network to engage regional laboratory members, helped launch the School Team Summer Conference, and served as senior consultant for Learning Forward.



Deborah Childs-Bowen

Childs-Bowen began her career as a classroom teacher and then principal. She also worked as director of professional development for Atlanta Public Schools, associate professor and director of the Institute for Teaching and Student Achievement at Samford University, and leader at SERVE, a U.S. Department of Education Regional Educational Research Laboratory network provider. In addition, she served as chair of the board of trustees for Engaging Schools.

In her work, Childs-Bowen brought an equity lens. She was committed to supporting all educators and leaders to serve all students. In 2018, she wrote in *The Learning Professional*, “School leaders set the tone for SEL [social and emotional learning] just as they do with academic expectations. To do that, they must lead not only for SEL but with SEL.” We continue to be inspired by her words.