

New network will redesign PLCs

Learning Forward is launching a new network to redesign professional learning communities in a way that builds on lessons learned and opportunities found during the pandemic.

The Learning & Inquiry in PLCs Network will support districts as they rethink and reinvent the ways they prioritize and facilitate collaboration to ensure equitable access to professional learning. In this facilitated network, each team will have a dedicated coach and multifaceted support grounded in the Standards for Professional Learning and equity-centered improvement theory and practices.

District teams will design, implement, and assess professional learning that improves teaching and leadership practices and learning for all students. Using continuous improvement methods, network members will implement effective practices, measure the outcomes, and continue to improve their professional learning system.

NETWORK BENEFITS

Benefits of network membership include:

- Regular, intensive, face-to-face, and virtual convenings for collaborative learning, planning, and professional development;
- Cycles of inquiry within teams;
- Critical friend conversations between teams;
- Virtual team coaching sessions; and
- Opportunities for facilitated peer-to-peer learning.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds through the American Rescue Plan Act can support participation in this network. For more information or to apply, visit learningforward.org/networks/learning-inquiry-in-plcs/



ONLINE COURSE SUPPORTS INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

Powerful Communication Skills for Coaches, Learning Forward's latest online course for instructional coaches, continues to sell out as fast as we can schedule it. Led by expert coaches Joellen Killion and Sharron Helmke, participants engage in a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning and coaching practices to enhance their critical coaching skills of self-awareness, listening, questioning, and supporting the critical thinking of others.

Each course combines the expertise of Learning Forward coaches with cutting-edge technology to create virtually facilitated live sessions, synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences, and collaborative experiences within Learning Forward's online learning community.

Visit learningforward.org/events to see when this and other online courses are scheduled.

Learning Forward welcomes 2 new staff members

Stephen Helgeson has joined Learning Forward as vice president, content architecture.



Stephen Helgeson

He will support Learning Forward's networks, professional services, and learning experiences. Most recently, he was vice president for new products and services for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, where he was the architect behind Atlas, a video database of accomplished teaching practices funded through a federal i3 grant.

Tim Taylor is Learning Forward's operations director in professional services.



Tim Taylor

His role will include developing and managing online learning tools and systems. Previously, he was the senior director for online professional development and operations at PBS, where he managed business operations for PBS TeacherLine, an online professional learning initiative funded through a federal Ready-to-Teach grant.