2023 themes for *The Learning Professional*

Here are themes for the 2023 issues of *The Learning Professional*:

- February 2023: **The retention challenge** (due Nov. 1, 2022).
- April 2023: **Continuous improvement in schools** (closed to submissions).
- June 2023: **Accelerating learning** (due Feb. 1, 2023).
- August 2023: **About time** (due April 1, 2023).
- October 2023: **Supporting students with special needs** (due June 1, 2023).
- December 2023: **Taking the next career step** (due Aug. 1, 2023).

To learn more about the themes and view submission guidelines, visit **learningforward.org/the-learning-professional/write-for-us**.

Oklahoma affiliate leaders support statewide teacher induction program

Recognizing the imperative of supporting early career educators, Learning Forward Oklahoma leaders worked with the Oklahoma State Department of Education to support a statewide teacher induction program aligned with Standards for Professional Learning.

The teacher induction program matches first-, second-, and third-year teachers with site-based mentors and virtual instructional coaches to guide them as they begin their teaching careers. First-year teachers are matched with site-based mentors who provide support in classroom management, instructional practices, and community engagement.

Second- and third-year teachers work with virtual instructional coaches to engage in coaching cycles focusing on instructional practices. The virtual instructional coaches are experienced teachers who want to develop their skills in leadership and coaching.

Technology serves as the conduit connecting teachers and coaches across the state in collaborative relationships. A digital coaching platform allows a secure space for coaches and teachers to share videos, lesson plans, and feedback for continuous asynchronous learning.

The program is founded on the Equity Drivers standard of Learning Forward's Standards for Professional Learning to help new teachers meet the needs of all students. The program also aligns with the Evidence standard by incorporating data collection and analysis at each stage of planning, implementing, and evaluating the program.

After mentors and instructional coaches engage in synchronous, virtual professional learning and implement new knowledge and skills in their classrooms and coaching sessions, participants reconvene to share insights with cohort colleagues. A data scientist leads the design and analysis of participant surveys, focus groups, and feedback from teachers, mentors, and coaches.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education is committed to building skilled, early career teachers who will serve in the teaching profession for the long term, effectively contributing to teacher shortage reduction. Aligning with Standards for Professional Learning is a key part of ensuring the professional learning makes a difference.