



## TWITTER CHAT EXPLORES NURTURING NEW TEACHERS

Learning Forward hosted a Twitter chat in September on the topic of supporting new teachers. Joined by authors from the August issue of *The Learning Professional* and practitioners from diverse locations and perspectives, we discussed strategies for mentoring and coaching, ongoing skill development, and creating a web of support. To read the discussion and be notified of future Twitter chats, follow #TheLearningPro on Twitter.

### LEARNING FORWARD WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW DISTRICT MEMBERS:

- Akron Public Schools, Akron, Ohio;
- Jennings School District, Jennings, Missouri;
- Johnson City Schools, Johnson, Tennessee;
- Marysville Exempted Village, Marysville, Ohio;
- Murfreesboro City Schools, Murfreesboro, Tennessee;
- New London Public Schools, New London, Connecticut;
- Options for Youth – Duarte, Palmdale, California;
- Reynoldsburg City Schools, Reynoldsburg, Ohio;
- State of Hawaii Department of Education, Aiea, Hawaii;
- Spartanburg School District 7, Spartanburg, South Carolina; and
- Sycamore Community City, Blue Ash, Ohio.

We are also pleased to continue our relationship with North Brunswick Township Schools in North Brunswick, New Jersey, and Sullivan School District in Sullivan, Missouri.

## Arizona partnership

Learning Forward kicked off a yearlong partnership in September with Arizona's Department of Education Adult Education Services division at the state's Adult Education Institute. Through this partnership, Learning Forward will support the professional learning of the state's adult educators.

Providing high-quality professional learning and support to the educators of adults can have important and enduring positive impact on students and the communities in which they live because students in grades pre-K through 12 are directly impacted by the adults in their lives.

At the kickoff event, Frederick Brown, Learning Forward president/CEO, delivered the opening keynote, highlighting the mindset shift required to achieve high-quality professional learning, the importance of collective efficacy, and the urgency of providing an excellent education for all students.

Following the keynote, Learning Forward facilitated a daylong session introducing Standards for Professional Learning and the learning processes detailed in Learning Forward's book *Becoming a Learning Team* (Learning Forward, 2018). Teams of educators in various roles from higher education, local education agencies, and community-based organizations worked together to identify how to best implement cycles of learning within their systems.

Learning Forward will continue to support the learning of these teams, modeling high-quality professional learning that is sustained, job-embedded, and collaborative. The teams will engage in learning and deepening their knowledge of what it means to become a learning team through six monthly virtual sessions from October through May.

## Learning Forward joins technology project

Learning Forward is partnering with the State Education Technology Directors Association in a 15-month project to develop the next National Educational Technology Plan for the U.S. Department of Education. Other partners include Innovate EDU, Project Tomorrow, and Whiteboard Advisors.

The coalition's work will support the U.S. Department of Education in leveraging federal technology and connectivity investments to help schools create powerful and engaging learning opportunities for students and educators.

A primary goal for the work is to give the public ample opportunity to provide input to the development of the plan. Learning Forward and Project Tomorrow will co-lead a listening tour to gather this feedback. This will include facilitating individual and group sessions as well as the development of a work plan, protocols and templates for the meetings, and a synthesis of the feedback to inform the plan.

The development of the National Educational Technology Plan supports Learning Forward's advocacy efforts to gather input from constituents across the education system and emphasize the importance of high-quality professional learning as a must-have for a successful technology plan. For more information, contact Melinda George, Learning Forward's chief policy officer, at [melinda.george@learningforward.org](mailto:melinda.george@learningforward.org).