

Comments on Tombaugh Elementary School Team
2014 Shirley Hord Award for Team Learning

Stephanie Hirsh:

"The learning team from Tombaugh Elementary School exemplifies collective commitment to student learning," said Learning Forward Executive Director Stephanie Hirsh. "We know that collaborative learning, when it is grounded in the Standards for Professional Learning, increases educator effectiveness and student achievement. We are proud to recognize this team as one that reflects our definition of professional learning and exemplifies the work that Shirley Hord has conducted on successful professional learning communities."

Shirley Hord:

"It is very easy to recognize the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to students that the Tombaugh learning team demonstrates," said Learning Forward Scholar Laureate Shirley Hord. "They are a self-organizing, self-managing collaborative group of educators that studies student data, research, and best practices in order to make decisions about their own professional learning based on the needs of their students."

Tombaugh School Principal: Annette Otero-Nunez:

"I am so very proud of this team of teachers," said Tombaugh Elementary School Principal Annette Otero-Nunez. "They have worked hard for the last three years analyzing math data to improve their own practice in teaching mathematics to our English Language Learner student population. The collaboration and proactive approach in designing their own professional learning and identifying high-yield strategies will benefit many students this year and in years to come."

Parker McMullen:

Watching the team from Clyde Tombaugh Elementary School is a delight. Even though there have been two new additions to the team, the six individuals work in a fluid and effective manner. You can tell by watching that each member is fully present and involved in the

discussion of how to improve their students' performance in mathematics. It is particularly interesting to note the attention that is paid to the individual speaking by the other members of the team. It would be interesting to be able to observe the pre-work that went into developing this level of collaboration. Many might assume that this comes naturally to these folks, but I know from experience that there must have been considerable time spent in developing the norms of how they have agreed to work together. Interruptions and talking over each other does not occur. This type of collaboration takes work and skill to bring it into existence.