



THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ORGANIZATION of PENNSYLVANIA

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Co-Presidents' Message

With Labor Day already a memory and most students back in the classrooms for at least a week, Learning Forward PA joins its members and colleagues in the renewed hope and high expectations that always accompany the start of a new school year! At the recent September meeting, the LFPA Board recommitted itself as a state affiliate of Learning Forward to advocate for every Pennsylvania educator to have access to high quality professional learning opportunities that are “results-driven, standards-based, and job-embedded”. This newsletter contains updates on Learning Forward PA, and we encourage you to share this information with colleagues, as they begin the 2014-2015 school year.

Educating Modern Learners Addressed at Upcoming LFPA Fall Institute

On Tuesday, October 14, the annual Learning Forward PA Fall Institute will be held at the Holiday Inn, Grantville (Harrisburg-Hershey), from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. Entitled “***Educating Modern Learners: The Opportunities and Challenges of Schooling in the Connected World***”, educators from across the Commonwealth will gather to work with Will Richardson, the key facilitator for the day. He is an outspoken advocate for change in schools and classrooms in the context of the diverse new learning opportunities that the Web and other technologies now offer. A former public school educator for 22 years, Mr. Richardson is one of a handful of original education bloggers, and over the past eight years, he has spoken to tens of thousands of educators in over a dozen countries and at TED talks about the merits of online learning networks for personal and professional growth and the reality of change in education.

Mr. Richardson is a co-founder of *Modern Learner Media*, which is dedicated to helping parents and policy makers develop new context for innovative conversations around education. He also co-founded *Powerful Learning Practice* (plpnetwork.com), a “unique professional development program that has mentored over 10,000 teachers around the world in the last six years.” He has authored four books, most recently *Why School? How Education Must Change When Learning and Information are Everywhere* (September, 2012), published by TED books and based on his most recent TEDxTalk in Melbourne, Australia. Currently, this book is the #1 best-selling book of all books ever published by TED! His articles have appeared in numerous journals, newspapers, and magazines, including *Ed Leadership*, *District Administration*, *The New York Times*, and the *English Journal*. He has also served as a member of the national advisory board for the George Lucas Education Foundation.

As part of the day’s learning opportunities, a Panel Discussion on “**Best Practices for Technology Integration and Learning for Professionals**” is scheduled. The panelists include classroom teachers, technology instructional specialists, and administrators who are

recognized for their exemplary work in technology integration, and they will share specific models they have successfully implemented.

Educators attending the Institute will have formal and informal opportunities throughout the day to network with fellow educators from across the Commonwealth – a hallmark of all Learning Forward PA's professional learning events.

If you have not already registered for the Institute, space is limited, and the October 1 deadline for registration is rapidly approaching! The registration fee of \$155 includes the conference fee, continental breakfast, lunch, and annual LFPA membership. Further details about the October Institute, including additional registration information and special overnight accommodation rates for a limited number of remaining rooms at the hotel, are posted at www.learningforwardpa.org.

Learning Forward PA Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Riviera Sperduto – the first Learning Forward PA Scholarship recipient! This Scholarship was established by LFPA to acknowledge the partnership the organization has with the Milton Hershey School. The School has generously hosted our quarterly Board meetings for many years, as well as several Learning Forward PA Institutes, and this scholarship honors the school by awarding a scholarship to a deserving Milton Hershey School graduating senior who plans to pursue a career in education. At graduation ceremonies held in June, Learning Forward PA's Past Co-President Angie Ryan, a Spanish teacher and the yearbook advisor at Milton Hershey School, presented the scholarship to Sperduto, who will begin studying music education this fall at Penn State, University Park Campus. The Scholarship is funded through proceeds from the LFPA Annual Fall Institute.

"Best Practices for Professional Learning" Recognized at Upcoming Institute

Learning Forward PA is committed to supporting and recognizing outstanding professional learning practice across the Commonwealth. After careful consideration of several worthy candidates, the Awards Committee of the LFPA Board recently selected two recipients for the 2014 "Best Practices for Professional Learning" Award. Both recipients - Bernadette Boerckel, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Warrior Run School District, Turbotville, PA, and Kelly Galbraith, Literacy Consultant and Regional Lead IU12, 13, & 15 for Teacher Effectiveness - have a broad spectrum of experience and influence in the realm of professional learning. As a recipient of this year's award, each of these individuals will receive a free registration to the Fall 2014 Institute where they will be publicly recognized for their exemplary work in the field of professional learning for Pennsylvania educators.

Learning Forward PA Approves Strategic Plan and Bylaws

Learning Forward PA is committed to remaining the leading professional learning organization in Pennsylvania by providing timely, relevant, and exemplary professional learning opportunities and resources to all educators across the Commonwealth. To that end, the Board spent several months in 2013-2014 reviewing and revising its Strategic Plan and Bylaws, and on May 30, the Board approved the **2014-2019 Strategic Plan** and **Bylaws** that will guide the work of the organization in the upcoming years "as it works to achieve the Learning Forward vision, 'Every educator engages in effective professional learning every day, so every student achieves'.

As an affiliate organization, Learning Forward PA aligns its Strategic Plan with the beliefs, mission, vision, and strategic priorities of Learning Forward, while also reflecting the very specific and unique needs, strengths, and priorities of educators through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Our five guiding **Beliefs** are:

1. Effective professional learning is fundamental to student learning.
2. All educators have an obligation to improve their professional practice.
3. More students achieve academically when educators assume collective responsibility for student learning.
4. Successful leaders create and sustain a culture of learning.
5. Improving student learning and professional practice require ongoing systemic and organizational change.

The LFPA mission is to advance educator effectiveness and student results through standards-based professional learning and by providing information and support to all Pennsylvania educators, as they strive daily to improve their professional practice. LFPA supports the Learning Forward **Standards for Professional Learning** and its elements that lead to improved professional practice and better results for students. LFPA's Strategic Plan is designed to advance those **Standards**, while working simultaneously to serve the 573 members of the Pennsylvania affiliate and educators throughout the Commonwealth by focusing on goals within three identified Priority Areas: Impact and Accountability, Advocacy and Policy, and Leadership and Practice.

We encourage all LFPA members and fellow Pennsylvania educators to review the specific LFPA Goals for each of these Priority Areas, as well as the complete LFPA Strategic Plan and Bylaws documents and the *Standards for Professional Learning* at www.learningforwardpa.org.

Your Learning Forward PA Board: 2014-2015

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We look forward to seeing you **October 14** at the Annual LFPA Fall Institute
“EDUCATING MODERN LEARNERS: THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES of SCHOOLING in the CONNECTED WORLD”

Additional LFPA Board Members

Stefan Biancaniello, Carla Claycomb, Linda De Ivernois, Tracy Fasick, Kathy Gibson, Peter Grande, Frances Miller, Ryan Monaghan, Angela Ryan, Donna Spangler

VISION: “Every educator engages in effective professional learning every day, so every student achieves.”