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Subject: News from Learning Forward (NYSSDC)  
Date: January 6, 2011 9:57:51 AM EST  
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# Learning Forward New York

Advancing professional learning for student success

Affiliate of Learning Forward (formerly NSDC)

## In this issue...

- [Perspective - Dick Jones](#)
- [Learning Forward New York News](#)
- [Learning Forward News](#)
- [Albany News](#)
- [Learning Resources](#)
- [Technology Tools](#)

## Powerful Words

"The journey is the reward."

Chinese Proverb

## EVENTS

### Celebration of Teaching & Learning

New York, NY  
March 18-19, 2011

### 2011 Learning Forward Summer Conference

Indianapolis, IN  
July 17-20, 2010

### More Information

[Learning Forward Annual Conference](#)

## Learning Forward New York Newsletter

January 2011

## Becoming A Learning School

Learning Forward New York is planning several regional workshops in the state around the theme of "Becoming A Learning School."

### Hold the Date

Regional Locations

- Hudson Valley - Ulster BOCES - March 29
- Western NY - Erie 1 BOCES - March 29
- Central NY- TBD
- Long Island TBD
- New York City TBD

More information and registration will be available in the next two weeks.

## Perspective - Dick Jones

*Events vs. Routines*

*Did you enjoy the holidays? Did you spend quality time with friends and family? Did you make any New Year's resolutions? We all enjoy the holidays this time of year. These are special **events** that create great memories and are times for celebration. However, in the days that follow, some of us experience feelings of depression as we descend from the emotional highs of gifts, gluttony and greetings. We slip back into our **routines** and pay our credit card bills. **Events** like holidays cause peaks and valleys of emotion. Without special **events**, our lives are dull. It is **events**, we look forward to. **Events** give us memories, but it is **routines** that give us meaning. **Events** come and go with the emotional highs and lows. It is our **routines** that make a difference.*

Think about the stereotypical New Year's resolution. We all profess to lose weight, exercise, eat better and be more patient and tolerant. Most of these resolutions fade into distant memory until we dust them off, next year at this time. However, those resolutions that we do successfully transfer into **routines** make a difference and lead to a better life.

What does this have to do with professional learning? Well, I ask you do think about professional learning. Is it an **event** or a **routine**? In your mind is professional learning one of those Superintendent's day presentations or workshops? It is an **event** like an online course we complete, or a conference we attend. We enjoy and remember those

Anaheim, CA

December 3-7, 2011

**Apply to Present -  
Deadline January 31**

professional learning **events**. They give us memories but do they make a difference.

It is the professional learning **routines** that make a difference and lead to true growth within the profession. Think about how you learned a new software application. You may have been excited about a learning **event** when you were introduced to an exciting new application, but if you failed to fold this software into your **routine**, you soon forget it and lose the skills. It is the new things you do on a daily basis that make a difference, new things you try, conversations you share, constant reflection on your work. These are professional learning **routines**.

Even within professional learning, we tend to think of evaluation of professional learning as **events** - an evaluation form, a survey or even a test. Those evaluation **events** are memorable and give us some data. But to truly make a difference, evaluation needs to be a **routine** - more formative evaluation. When we do formal workshops and presentations (there is still a place for workshops) we should use technology to solicit ongoing feedback as to how participants are processing the new learning, right during the workshop. What is repetitious? What is novel? What is practical? In addition to conducting surveys, let's incorporate professional learning evaluation into team meetings, walkthroughs, even submission of daily lesson plans.

Convert **events** into **routines**, it will improve professional learning and help you reach one of those New Year's resolution goals.

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## Learning Forward New York News

*Learning Forward on Twitter*



Learning Forward is now on [twitter](#). You can now receive regular information on professional development activities by following the twitter address of [@LFNewYork](#).

*Becoming a Learning School*

The regional workshops will be based on the publication and tools from Learning Forward. All workshop participants will receive a copy of the book and toolkit. *Becoming a Learning School* (NSDC,2009) is a tool kit for implementing effective professional development in schools. Collaborative professional learning teams meet regularly to advance teaching quality and student learning. Examine structures and processes for successful collaboration; the responsibilities of principals, teachers, teacher leaders, and central office staff; and strategies for evaluating team effectiveness. Gain strategies and tools to understand collaborative professional learning, strengthen school and district culture, establish focus on common goals, clarify stakeholders' roles in the school, troubleshoot perceived barriers to professional learning, and build a strong evaluation system that ensures revisions are based on needs.

All workshop participants will receive a copy of the book and toolkit.

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## Learning Forward News

*Mizell Blog*

Hayes Mizell, Learning Forward, distinguished senior fellow, writes in his latest [blog](#) about Professional Development Role in Teacher Evaluation.

*2011 Learning Forward Annual Conference*

Submit your proposal to present at Learning Forward's 2011 [Annual Conference](#) in Anaheim, December 3-7.

Capture the Magic and help shape this conference into THE Learning Conference. [Apply](#) today to present a session. Bring a team of your colleagues to share your best work. The deadline for proposals is January 31, 2011.

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## Albany News

### *College and Career Readiness Survey*

The Board of Regents would like your feedback on a College and Career Readiness Survey which focuses on three topics: [College and Career Readiness Frameworks](#), [Necessary Skills and Knowledge for College and Workforce Success](#), and [New York State Graduation Requirements](#). The survey should take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete and it must be completed in one session. Please follow this [link](#) to access the survey: This survey is one aspect of a series of meetings, presentations, and data collection processes conducted in 2010 by the NYS Board of Regents' College and Career Readiness Working Group. Results of the survey will be shared with the Board of Regents at their March meeting. The deadline for your input is January 31, 2011.

### *Regional Lab Seeks Feedback*

The Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands (REL-NEI) is hosting a webinar: "REL Northeast and New York" (12:00 - 1:00 PM EST, Tuesday, January 11, 2011). REL-NEI is one of ten Regional Educational Laboratories funded by the US Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to support the needs of educational stakeholders in the region, which includes New York. This event features our New York state research team discussing REL-NEI work that has been done to date and facilitating a conversation about how REL-NEI might support additional research needs in New York. To learn more about this free [webinar](#), [visit their website](#).

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## Learning Resources

### *Learning-Focused Leadership and Leadership Support: Meaning and Practice in Urban Systems*

For a year and a half beginning in 2008, a Wallace Foundation team of researchers explored seven urban districts and schools within them to find out what good education leadership means and how it can best be supported. This [volume](#) is a synthesis of what the researchers learned from their undertaking. Among other things, they describe five key education leadership practices, including making it clear that improving instruction is the "main business of the school and district."

### *Why Professional Development Matters*

Read, [download](#) (free), and use the 25-page booklet, [Why Professional Development Matters](#) written by Hayes Mizell and provided by Learning Forward. Written for parents, community members, and policy makers, this booklet explains in fundamental terms what professional development is and why it is an important school improvement strategy. Download a free electronic copy or purchase print version for \$5.

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## Technology Tools

### *Hate Powerpoint?*

Do you hate PowerPoint? Looking for something easier to use or cheaper for visuals than Microsoft Office. [Here is an interesting blog](#) that describes five alternatives.

### *WallWisher*

Check out [WallWisher](#). It is great example of a Web 2.0 tool. This free service is still in development. Anyone can create a wall. Give this wall address to workshop participants and they can post virtual Post-It notes on the wall. Great for brainstorming and gathering feedback.

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## Member News

Sara Silverstone has been appointed Executive Director of the Rochester Area Colleges Center for Excellence in Math and Science. Congratulations, Sara!

*This is a section for news items of NYSSDC members. Have you been appointed to a new position, received an award, written book or published an article? Share the great news with colleagues. Send a note to Richard Jones, Newsletter Editor.*

### Education Links

- [NYSED](#)
- [BOCES](#)
- [NYSCOSS](#)
- [SAANYS](#)
- [NYSASBO](#)
- [NYSSBA](#)
- [NYSASCD](#)
- [NYSAIS](#)
- [NYSAWA](#)
- [Teacher Centers](#)
- [NYSCATE](#)
- [NYSCEE](#)
- [National Education Partners](#)

### Our Vision:

**Our Purpose: Every educator in New York State schools engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves.**

email: [info@learningforwardnewyork.org](mailto:info@learningforwardnewyork.org)

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