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Learning Forward New York

Advancing professional learning for student success

Affiliate of Learning Forward (formerly NSDC)

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Powerful Words

"The secret in education lies in respecting the student."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

EVENTS

2011 Learning Forward Summer Conference

Indianapolis, IN
July 17-20, 2010

[More Information](#)

Learning Forward Annual Conference

Anaheim, CA
December 3-7, 2011

[Apply to Present - Deadline January 31](#)

Learning Forward New York Newsletter

December 2010

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

More information and registration will be available in January.

Perspective - Dick Jones

Simple Words - Powerful Meaning

I am into words lately! One reason for that is I am addicted to playing Words with Friends on my iPhone. This Scrabble clone enables me to keep in touch with close friends and family on a daily basis as I seek to make creative words out of seven letters and score that triple word value that overwhelms my opponent. It is a mentally stimulating game to productively use that time waiting in line or ignoring a commercial as you watch the latest episode of Glee!

My other reason for being into words is reflecting on a few small words that were echoed at the recent Learning Forward National Conference. The new name is more words than NSDC and it takes even more words to describe the renamed organization. However, this year's theme was three words, **Dream. Dare. Do**. This is a very simple but powerful theme and the host committee did a wonderful job of reinforcing the theme throughout the conference. The word I have most focused on is "Do." We all "Do" a lot, for each of our days are filled with busy commitments for work and family. But the theme was not the word "Do" alone, it starts with Dream and Dare. Too often we Do our work out of routine and habit and never connect our actions to our daring dreams. Education and continued learning is about doing not the easy or routine, it is about doing, the different, the novel and the unique. Avoid letting your dreams fade into memories. Take action now to Dream, Dare. Do.

The other small word came from the keynote by NPR journalist Michele Norris. She related a story of meeting an assertive teacher that scolded

her during their conversation in Norris's choice of the word "have" as in, "I **have** to take an early morning flight tomorrow." This teacher reminded Norris that as a successful professional she has opportunities that the vast majority of people only dream of. She asked Norris to use the word "**get**" in place of "**have**." This one simple change of word, makes all the difference and changes our mindset from one of always looking at our obligations as burdens and transforms them to exciting opportunities that we can enjoy because of our hard work and choices we have made. Be positive about the things you get to do. Not everyone **gets** to have good a job or a family. So, the next time you hear yourself wearily stating that you " have" to do something, change the word to "get" and enjoy the opportunity you have. **I get to write this newsletter every month.**

Learning Forward New York News

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.

Networking Site

A while back we created a Ning site to network among educators in New York related to professional learning. We have reactivated that site. We will be using this site to support the spring workshops on *Becoming a Learning School*. We have added a discussion group now on activities related to [Race To The Top](#). Join the conversation at <http://www.lfny.us>.

Learning Forward News

National Conference Materials

Couldn't make it to Atlanta? Handouts from selected presenters are available online at the [conference web site](#). Feel free to print out handouts for any and all of the sessions that interest you

Learning Forward's 2010 Virtual Conference Archive contains more than 35 hours of conference content. View keynote addresses from Beverly Hall, Douglas Reeves, Andrew Hargreaves, and Michele Norris, along with all nine distinguished lectures and a dozen concurrent sessions. Share the conference experience with your colleagues and learning teams, and use these valuable sessions as part of your own professional learning. The complete Virtual Conference archive is available for just \$149 for Learning Forward members and \$199 for nonmembers. [See a complete list of archived sessions.](#)

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.

Albany News

Mentoring Standards

The Board of Regents at the December meeting reviewed Recommendations from the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching on New York State [Mentoring Standards](#)

Learning Resources

TED Talks for Teachers

Many are familiar with the TED Talks - Ideas worth spreading. These short lectures by some of the most brilliant people in Technology, Entertainment and Design. Here is a list of [TED talks that are of interest to educators](#).

Learning Talks

Speaking of TED talks. Elliot Masie has launched LearningTalks - a series of short, free, video interviews on learning. This project of The MASIE Center is modeled after the valuable TED Talks, and begins with the release of over 40 segments from Learning 2010. There are interviews with Apolo Ohno, Marshall Goldsmith, Learning Leaders from JCPenny, Yum! Brands, CNN and Peace Corps and many more. These 3 to 9 minute learning segments are now live at: LearningTalks - <http://www.learningtalks.com>

Technology Tools

Confused about Web 2.0 Tools?

If you are confused about web 2.0 tools? Blog? Wikis? Docs? Which One Should You Use? This [chart](#) gives you some clear comparisons to figure out which one is best for your situation.

Electronic Brainstorming Tool

[Edistorm](#) takes the metaphor of sticky notes on a meeting room wall and brings it online allowing anyone - any group - anywhere to brainstorm with only a web browser. With this tool you have an internet based visual tool for group brainstorming. There is also a companion app for working with an ipad.

Member News

Steve Uebbing and Past President Mike Ford have recently published a book on leadership through Learning Forward. Check out [The Life Cycle of Leadership: Surviving and Thriving in Today's Schools](#) at the Learning Forward bookstore.

They will also be conducting an [e-learning](#) series on this leadership topic beginning in January.

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.

- [NYSED](#)
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Our Purpose: Every educator in New York State schools engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves.

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