

March 2011

Learning Forward New York Newsletter

Advancing professional learning for student success

New York State Affiliate of Learning Forward (formerly NSDC)

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Becoming a Learning School Workshops

Is your school ready to adapt to the changes of preparing all students to be career and college ready, especially in an era of limited resources?

Adapting to these challenges requires building a strong collaborative Learning School. Learning Forward New York is introducing an excellent resource to help you further develop your school into a Learning School. There is no need for high priced consultants or large scale teacher workshops. This one day regional session will equip you with the tools and activities to elevate the learning capacity of your talented teachers to become a Learning School. Join us at one of these regional locations and learn from your Learning Forward New York colleagues.

For information go to our [Learning Forward New York web site](#). or click on the regional site to learn more information and register.

[Hudson Valley - March 29, 2011 - Ulster County BOCES](#)
[Western New York - March 29, 2011 - Erie #1 BOCES](#)
[Long Island - To Be Reschedule for April](#)
[New York City - March 30, 2011 - Manhattan @ Asia Society](#)

Our plans are to duplicate this workshop in other regions of the state through the next year. If you are interested in hosting a workshop in your area, please contact [Christine Lowden](#).

Perspective - Dick Jones

21st Century Personal Learning Network



I still remember my first year as a teacher. It was one of the most exciting, challenging and frustrating experiences of my life. I survived my first year and realized that I was beginning to make a difference in the lives of several young people. It convinced me that my career should follow a path in education.

One of the people that helped me survive my first year of teaching was an elderly teacher named Joe, who worked across the hall. Joe always welcomed me to wander into his classroom at the end of the day to vent my frustrations and seek his advice. He always had time for me, constantly offered encouragement and wisdom from his 30 years in teaching. Looking back, I realize Joe was part of my personal learning network that enabled me to

become a competent teacher.

We all have our personal learning networks; colleagues in our school, mentors from previous jobs, or family members who work in education. These people offer advice, a sympathetic ear, or new ideas enabling us to continue to improve in our craft.

The challenges in education continue to mount with so much expected of us on a daily basis. Teachers work hard satisfying an ever-increasing number of administrative requests and increasingly complex demands from the dozens of students we see on a daily basis. To meet these, we all must be continual learners, acquiring new skills, trying new approaches and contributing to our schools collective success. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find time for the casual chats with people face-to-face that may be part of our personal learning network. However, social networking tools and the Internet allows us to develop a unique 21st-century personal learning network.

Over the last several months I have become convinced that [Twitter](#) is a powerful professional learning tool. Twitter is not about pumping out marketing information to the masses like a web site or email. Twitter gives individuals the choice to read information that meets his or her immediate needs. This is empowering professional development where you can listen to experts anywhere in the world. You can ask questions and receive advice from talented educators. Whether you are reading short messages from a leading author or reading blogs from other 3rd grade teachers, there is a wealth of knowledge to be gained.

We all enjoy reading books by popular authors such as [Dan Pink](#) (@DanielPink), [Stephen Covey](#) (@StephenRCovey), or [Ken Robinson](#) (@SirKenRobinson) or watch [TED Talks](#) (@TED_TALKS). We are eager to attend presentations by education thought leaders like [Heidi Hayes Jacob](#) (@HeidiHayesJacob), [Steve Barkley](#) (@stevebarkley) or [Diane Ravitch](#) (@DianeRavitch). These talented authors not only write books periodically but they use twitter and they write and offer advice every day. If you're interested in what they have to offer you can tune in and listen to their advice. Every moment hundreds of teachers are writing and sharing advice about their effective teaching. Any teacher can seek out these individuals and listen to their advice.

[Will Richardson](#), (@willrich45) and [Rob Mancabelli](#) (@RobMancabelli) have created a new book; Personal Learning Networks available from [Solution Tree](#) in May.

Twitter may be in the popular media as a way to follow entertainment personalities or it can be used by companies to market their products.

But, because you control and decide who to follow and pay attention to, it can be a powerful personal learning network..

You can create your own personal learning network and listen to educators who will help to make you a better teacher. Join twitter, create your network and follow [Learning Forward New York](#) (@LFNewYork) where you will learn about cutting-edge practices in professional development. BTW, I tweet under @RDJLeader

Learning Forward New York News



Blog

Learning Forward New York is moving beyond a periodic email for communication. One of the effective Web 2.0 tools is a blog. Consequently we have started a [Learning Forward New York Blog](#). We will use guest bloggers from educators across New York State. If you have ideas and reflections to share through the Learning Forward New York blog, please contact [Dick Jones](#). For everyone, go to our blog to read the latest entries and link to the feed to keep up with latest thoughts on high quality professional development.

Learning Forward National News

Academy for Staff Developers 2013

The Learning Forward Academy is an extended and profound learning experience that models the organization's vision for professional learning and teamwork in schools. Academy members work collaboratively under facilitation of national staff developers to learn about and solve significant student learning problems that occur within their school, district, or organization. Applications are due March 15. Further information is available on [web site](#).

Scholarships and Grants

The Learning Forward Foundation awards scholarship and grants in four categories (Principal as Bridge Builder, Learning Forward Team, Academy for Staff Developers, Leading for Learning Superintendent). These awards provide recipients opportunities to develop their expertise in leading professional learning within their schools and districts and to engage them in the broader Learning Forward community for ongoing professional collaboration and support. Applications are due March 15. Further information is available on [web site](#).

Albany News

Teaching Standards

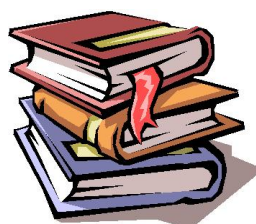


In January, the New York State Board of Regents approved Teaching Standards. These now define the broad seven broad

standards and the performance indicators under each that all teacher should aspire to and be used for evaluation purposes. Standard VII relates to teacher responsibility for Professional Growth. Copies of the standards are available [online](#).

Learning Resources

Are you ahead of the curve?



How does professional development in your school compare to national trends? This excellent report, [Professional Development in the United States:Trends and Challenges](#) conducted by Stanford University and Linda Darling Hammond provides several national benchmarks with which to compare the status of professional learning in your school.

Teacher Evaluation

This [issue](#) of the Learning Forward newsletter The Learning System, shared with all educators, describes the opportunity to include professional learning as schools modify teacher evaluation programs.

Technology Tools

Mindmeister



[MindMeister](#) is a new online mind mapping tool. You can create maps online or offline, share and work with others online. It works with iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch to give you instant access to your mind maps wherever you are. First 3 mindmaps are free. Cost is \$20 per year for educators.

Member News

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 [Dick Jones](#), Newsletter Editor.

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

Web Site: <http://www.learningforwardnewyork.org>

Richard Jones, Executive Director
Learning Forward New York

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