

LEARNING FORWARD FOUNDATION

Educate, Innovate, Transform Educator Professional Learning

Learning Forward Foundation Donor Event: Celebrating Donors and New Awardees



2023 Academy Awardees, Learning Forward CEO, and Learning Forward Foundation Members

Thank you to those who joined us in person or in spirit at the recent Learning Forward Foundation donor event. What a wonderful evening of learning and celebration of our donors and our scholarship awardees.

Learning about what motivates our Learning Forward Foundation awardees to change their practice while receiving high-quality professional learning through the Learning Forward Academy experience reminds us of how well-served their students are by their work.



Shelby Yastrow and Stephanie Hirsh

Listening to the “Legacy of Giving” that our dear Sybil Yastrow contributed to educator professional learning and the Foundation was inspiring! She was an amazing woman in so many ways.

On behalf of the Learning Forward Foundation, thank you to our donors for your support of the Learning Forward Foundation.

We hope to see you at this year’s event held in Denver, Colorado in December 2024!

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

2023 was a banner year for the Learning Forward Foundation. We increased our capacity in so many ways by engaging our donors with the learning work of our awardees, expanding our Board membership, and deepening our partnership with Learning Forward to create a professional learning movement with and for educators to impact the learning of the children and youth in their classrooms and learning environments. The Learning Forward Foundation celebrates the following accomplishments:

- We have increased the number and quality of Foundation scholarship applicants by streamlining and intentionally coordinating the application process in collaboration with Learning Forward regarding the timing of the application and the notification of awardees.
- Our Foundation touchpoint process has been improved to be more thorough by providing in-depth connections with awardees and their coaches.
- We enhanced board member commitment to the fidelity of the Foundation’s work by growing the organization both fiscally through donor generosity and from a leadership perspective by having three new Ambassadors join our Board.
- The Foundation’s board members and ambassadors embraced Indigenous perspectives through the revision of our Foundation norms and universal truths to embrace a seven sacred teaching lens of respect, love, honesty, truth, wisdom, humility, and courage.
- We hosted our annual donor reception in December to honor co-founder Sybil Yastrow. Due to her family and friends’ continued commitment and her professional learning legacy, the Sybil Yastrow Academy Scholarship Fund was showcased at the reception.
- All major donor scholarships – the Stephanie Hirsh, Patsy Hochman, and the Sybil Yastrow Academy scholarships- now offer travel support in addition to the Academy fee.
- We deepened alignment between the Learning Forward Academy curriculum and the Foundation work by having two seats on the Learning Forward Academy committees.
- We continued dialogue with Learning Forward about a partnership agreement to affirm the Foundation’s support of Learning Forward’s mission to create a professional learning movement and to strengthen Learning Forward’s commitment to regularly communicate, collaboratively plan, and offer financial and human resources to support the work of the Learning Forward Foundation.

We are excited to share in our annual report how the Foundation, in tandem with the generosity of our donors, supports the awardees’ participation in Learning Forward’s Academy flagship program, to build their capacity to align their Problem of Practice to research-based, equity-centered professional learning standards. By building a strong partnership between Learning Forward’s leadership and the time and talents of our Board members and Ambassadors, we are creating a professional learning movement that matters to every child in classrooms across the country and internationally. We are grateful for your continued support of our collective impact, and we know we can count on you for years to come.

With profound gratitude,

Dr. Deb Radi

Affiliate Grants

The Dale Hair Affiliate Grant supports a Learning Forward affiliate to rebuild, reorganize, or generate a more robust organization to broaden opportunities for educators to learn strategically. Learning Forward Affiliate leaders also identify a problem of practice in their local, provincial, or state contexts to enhance professional learning engagement with educators and their learning communities.

Academy Scholarships

Educators are awarded scholarships to support their participation in the Learning Forward Academy, Learning Forward's flagship deep learning experience. Academy awardees identify a Problem of Practice (PoP) that will increase their capacity as educational leaders while supporting the learning of adults and students in their context's ever-changing landscape of education. A PoP is an educational challenge that needs to be solved. The PoP evolves from a basic statement to a comprehensive, inquiry-based learning plan for the awardee and their learning community. The diversity of professional learning projects of our 2023 awardees is notable. Addressing a challenge in the workplace that needs to be solved is the work of school and district improvement. The most powerful result is improved outcomes for students. The 2023 awardees are focused and the Learning Forward Foundation supports and cheers them on!

2023 Academy Scholarship Recipients



Amy Brown

Northern Valley Regional High School District, NJ
Sybil Yastrow Academy Scholarship



Jill Kind

Osseo Public Schools, MN
Sybil Yastrow Academy Scholarship



Yesenia Morales

Metro Nashville Public Schools, TN
Stephanie Hirsh Academy Scholarship



Donald Nicolas

Broward County Public Schools, FL
Learning Forward Foundation Academy Scholarship



Lisa Rodden-Perinka

Metro Nashville Public Schools, TN
Stephanie Hirsh Academy Scholarship



Diana Whalen

North Brunswick Township Schools, NJ
Learning Forward Foundation Academy Scholarship

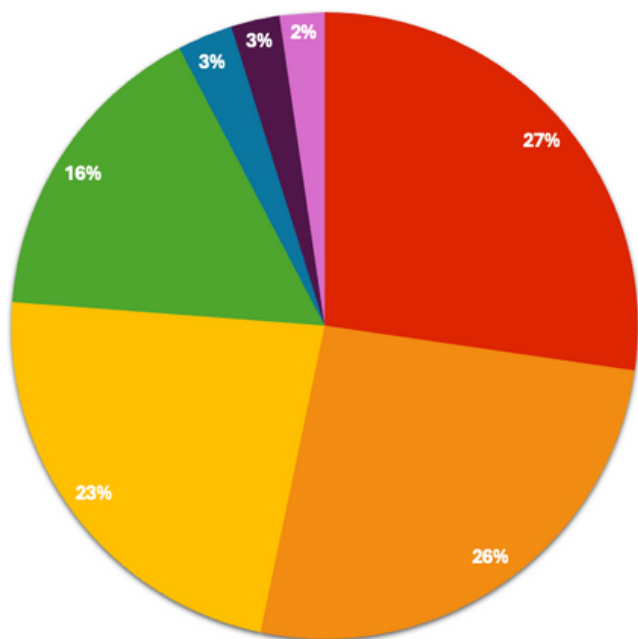
Awardees Target Continuous Improvement by Tackling Diverse Problems of Practice

The Learning Forward Foundation provides scholarships and grants to support the development of educators' capacity to improve student learning through innovation and improvement that transforms professional learning, framed by the evidence-based characteristics and practices of the Learning Forward Standards.

2023 Scholarship and Grant Awardee's Problems of Practice

1. Establish a system to differentiate professional learning for staff within the contracted time for professional engagement through collaborative learning opportunities for all educators to improve student success.
2. Create equitable learning outcomes for our multilingual students (MLs) through professional learning by equipping K-4 English as a Second Language homeroom teachers with strategies to address the unique needs of MLs and to ensure MLs have access to content. The awardee plans to design professional learning to build teachers' capacity to support language development and academic achievement and foster engagement and participation in the classroom.
3. Create a system of professional learning, grounded in the Standards for Professional Learning, which increases the capacity of educators to eliminate racially and linguistically predictable student achievement outcomes.
4. Forge strong, collaborative relationships among our district departments so that our stakeholders learn in a more holistic manner and can see the clear alignment of their work, their learning, and our district short- and long-term goals.
5. Create a Culture of Equity for every student in the district by spotlighting and mitigating the inequities that exist in the district related to multilingual students. Higher expectations, shared responsibility, and a continuous learning cycle will demonstrate support for every child.
6. Create structures that assist coaches in achieving growth measures related to changes/shifts in planning and instructional practices within in their local school contexts that lead to an increase and stability in both teacher and student performance.

2023 Learning Forward Foundation Donors Made It Possible



Multi-year donations are not reflected in the Annual reporting graph.



- Dale Hair Affiliate Grant Donations
- Equity in Action Donations
- Michigan Academy Scholarship Donations
- General Scholarship & Grant Donations
- Fundraisers
- Academy Scholarship Donations
- Stephanie Hirsh Academy Scholarship Donations

5% of all donations are reserved for administrative costs. The books and records of the Learning Forward Foundation are audited each year as a part of the annual audit conducted for Learning Forward. Although the Learning Forward Foundation and Learning Forward are separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities, they are audited at the same time as closely related entities and a single audit report is issued covering both entities. During the FY23 audit no exceptions, or issues were raised relating to the Learning Forward Foundation.

Fundraising for Innovation and Improvement in Education

The Learning Forward Foundation, through the generous donations of its supporters, has awarded more than 89 scholarships and grants in 3 countries since 2008.

For more information about the Learning Forward Foundation, or how you can donate to support the professional learning of educators, visit www.foundation.learningforward.org or scan the QR code.

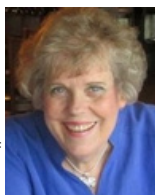


In Memoriam



Linda Munger NSDC consulting services (now Learning Forward Professional Services). She served on the Learning Forward Foundation Board. Linda joined the association in 1988 and stayed faithful to that membership for 35 years. She was fully vested in Learning Forward with contributions to its publications, professional services, conferences, and academies. Learning Forward has suffered a major loss with Linda's passing. Professional learning has lost a devoted advocate, facilitator, author and teacher. Her colleagues have lost a precious friend.

Dayna was a longtime member of Learning Forward (since 1986), and founding member of Learning Forward Kansas (LFK).



Dayna Richardson

Under her leadership LFK received two Dale Hair Affiliate grants. Learning Forward Kansas aptly described Dayna "as a dear friend, mentor and colleague to many across Kansas and the nation. She was a bright, capable, curious and passionate leader who was deeply committed to teaching and learning." Those who knew and worked with her would call her a doer and a possibility thinker. Her vibrancy and exuberance for life and learning will long be remembered and cherished.

Paying Tribute

By making a contribution to the memory of a loved one, you will be perpetuating their spirit and supporting Learning Forward Foundation, a cause close to their heart. In commemorating their life, you are not only preserving cherished memories but also making a lasting impact. Your contribution ensures that their passion lives on, continuing to touch lives and make a positive difference. Donating in someone's name is a way of celebrating a life well-lived.

