

May 2015

Learning Forward Kansas

An Affiliate of Learning Forward

The Professional Learning Association

KS Direct Connection

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June 9-10: LF KS Advance, Stafford, KS**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our organization began its search for a new executive director last fall. The search committee committed many hours discussing and planning for the future of LFKansas. Our search has been completed and I would like to introduce our new Executive Director, Dayna Richardson, a friend, colleague, and mentor to many of us.

Dayna's educational career has included elementary teacher, gifted education teacher, coordinator of gifted education, director of the Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas (ESSDACK), assistant superintendent for Buhler USD 313, and an adjunct instructor at five Kansas universities.

Recently, she has been a Leadership Coach for Coaching For Results Global, an MTSS Facilitator, and an Implementation Coach for Kansas Learning Network. Presently, she is Chair of Kansas Learning First Alliance. She also works with individual districts, focusing on professional learning communities, teacher leadership, professional learning, and creating a collaborative culture that puts students first by transforming professional learning!

Dayna supports quality professional learning through her involvement and leadership with districts and state/national organizations, including serving as president of Kansas Staff Development Council (Learning Forward Kansas) and in various leadership roles within Kansas Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (KASCD). She has been selected as the KSDC Staff Developer of the Year and as the KASCD Outstanding Curriculum Leader. Dayna represents [Learning Forward Kansas](#) with [Kansas Learning First Alliance](#) (KLFA). She is also a member of [Learning Forward's](#) Affiliate Leadership Committee. Dayna's passion is learning and leadership, believing that learning happens through a spirit of inquiry, curiosity, and shared leadership.

You can learn more about Dayna and her work by visiting her website, Sticky Standards at: <http://stickystandards.org/>

Some comments from Dayna, "Working collaboratively, LFKS will be "at the table" supporting Kansas schools. It's about growth....getting better! Let's create and engage an army of volunteers who believe in the power of professional learning during this time of complex change in our schools and across our state. As I always ask, "If professional learning isn't the answer, what is?" Professional learning that is job-embedded, collaborative, data-driven, and student focused. There are many possibilities - partnering and collaborating with other organizations, expanding professional learning opportunities, using social media, highlighting excellence in our schools, walking our talk! Our goal is to transform professional learning that will improve educator practices and learning for all students...Student success!"

A huge thank you goes to the search committee; Kim Panzer, Pam Irwin, Vicki Bechard and Jill Lachenmayr. Their commitment to LFKS is appreciated.

A big welcome to Dayna! I invite each of you to join us at our Learning Forward Kansas Advance this summer, June 9-10 in Stafford, KS. During the Advance, Dayna will be facilitating our learning as we plan for our future.



Dayna Richardson



SAVE the DATE

We are proud to announce plans for the 2016
Kansas Learning Forward Conference!

Our theme is

“Excellent Teaching and Learning Every Day”

The conference will be January 27-28th, 2016
in Wichita at the DoubleTree by the airport.

Watch for more information on registration and
conference details coming in September!

Come join us to promote effective Professional Learning Systems.



Pam Irwin,
KS Learning Forward
Conference Chair



Vicki Bechard,
LFKS Secretary

**CLICK HERE TO
GO TO THE
LEARNING
FORWARD BLOG
SITE**

What Does Professional Learning Look Like?

I love to see pictures of scrumptious recipes on Facebook or in cookbooks that really make me want to try to make that for my family to eat (or more than likely for me to eat!). I go to great lengths to capture the recipe and the accompanying picture for future reference, saving them, printing them and putting them in the plastic protective sleeve in my 3 ring notebook. Yes I have a computer file, but I just like the real thing better. Then I make it. Sometimes it looks surprisingly similar to the picture, but many times it does not. Most of the time it tastes great regardless of how it looks, but the effect is not quite the same. So I think of ways to make the next attempt better and jot that down for future use. Does this ever happen to you as an educator trying out new strategies and ideas?

Have you ever sat in a professional learning session (regardless of the topic), listened to the presenter, talked with other participants about the topic, jotted down ideas, and yet walked away wondering (just like seeing the scrumptious recipe), "What would this look like in my district (classroom)?" "Could I really make this happen?"

Read more of this blog entry, **"What Does Effective Professional Learning Look Like?"** or past entries, at our [Learning Forward Kansas Blog](http://learningforwardkansas.org) on our website (learningforwardkansas.org) for ideas and thoughts on professional learning.



Reflections from LFKS Conference 2015-Wichita

Professional Learning: United We Stand

Professional Learning: United We Stand is one of the many great sessions I attended at the 2015 Learning Forward Kansas Conference. This session was led by Dayna Richardson, who is a true champion in the world of professional learning. True to form, Dayna modeled effective professional learning throughout her session, giving the participants many chances to collaborate and process the information she was giving us.

While I learned many things in this session, two ideas really resonated with me. The first idea is that professional learning should be about student achievement. As educators we have sat through many “PD days” because it was district mandated and we needed points. Thinking about professional learning in terms of student achievement is a mind shift and really focuses the purpose of professional learning. My hope is that all schools move from “PD days” to professional learning that is about student achievement.

The second idea that really resonated with me is the idea that professional learning is daily and ongoing. It is not just a series of days scheduled throughout the school year. Professional learning is about creating a culture of trust and ongoing collaboration. Professional learning can take on many forms. Sometimes it is doing a lesson study with colleagues. Other times it might be analyzing student data with peers. Whatever form it takes, it has to be constant and meaningful, not a few days of the year. As education continues to evolve in this nation and state, my hope is that schools embrace the idea of professional learning as something that happens every day, not just a few days of the year on the school calendar.

By Kim Panzer

The Blended Classroom: One Teacher’s Approach

During the 2015 Learning Forward Kansas Conference, I engaged with a variety of educators from across the state and discussed important education concepts that will help to close the “knowing and doing gap”. One exciting session was presented by Abilene High School teacher Megan Berry which examined the blended classroom.

The blended classroom has gained momentum over the last few years as districts have approached the 1:1 technology ratio. Blended learning is the combination of traditional and online interaction and can be used in a variety of ways. The blended classroom was first used in Abilene two years ago in Senior Government; and the students, as long as they are meeting performance standards, do not attend class except on specific dates. Instead, students interact online through discussion boards and use a variety of technology tools to complete assignments. The instructor is available for office hours during the normal class period and also works with students that are struggling with the content.

Abilene High’s approach to blended learning works well with older students, but as a Middle School teacher not all of the ideas presented during the session would be applicable in my setting. However, I was able to implement several concepts in my classroom, including ways to enrich online discussions, a variety of technology classroom tools and examples of productive blended assignments.

By Eric Shipman

Reflections from LFKS Conference 2015-Wichita

“Building Personalized Learning with Weekly Game-Based Challenges” was a fantastic breakout session! This session focused on creating weekly challenges for teachers to explore incorporating technology into their teaching lessons. Each week participating teachers could achieve a level by the extent they choose to take each challenge. The challenges were designed in a way for participating teachers to take their learning of incorporating technology into their lessons in a fun non-threatening manner, letting the individual teacher determine the speed and comfort level of their own learning. Taking one challenge at a time allowed teachers not to be overwhelmed and to become comfortable with something new so that the likelihood of using the new skill would become a common practice for the teacher and open up the classroom to a technology rich learning environment. Great ideas and I learned about how to incorporate some Google apps in lesson activities.

By Sheila Mortimer

At the Learning Forward Kansas Leadership Conference in February, DeSoto High School Assistant Principal Kris Meyer presented a session called Being Human Online. This program is designed to help students understand the role that social media and other online services offer them, and how they can lead a movement of character and humanity on the internet. Essentially, if a person understands that their online persona serves as their own personal brand, they are more inclined to practice heightened awareness of the things that they say and do online. Mrs. Meyer referenced a mother in the suburban Kansas City, KS area who was looking for a trustworthy nanny for her kids. After a professional organization narrowed her candidate list down to five, the prospective employer discovered public information on Twitter that horrified her and disqualified several candidates. Mrs. Meyer has an online character development site called www.thefirstninety.com. On this page, she says

"In the information era, now more than ever we must think before we act, post, submit and hit send. Beyond the screen or keyboard, we need to conscientiously consider our actions and prepare to represent brands for the greater portion of our life. Here are a few suggestions for improving your online reputation:

1. Remove photographs which paint you in a negative, immature or risqué light. (Less Miley Cyrus poses and more Kate Middleton.)
2. Post positive messages – cut the rants and political opinions.
3. Donate your time, resources or services and post photos encouraging others to join you.
4. Invest in your online character: be human, online."

By Ben Smith

The session I found most interesting was “Building Personalized Learning with Game-Based Challenges.” This presentation was intriguing because it showed how to implement new technology in an interesting way. The faculty members most interested in implementing the technology applies for the group. Then, the group gets weekly challenges and the players are allowed to choose at which level they would like to implement the strategy. Different levels of implementation are rewarded differently. I brought this idea back to our professional development council and our technology team.

By Jennifer Griffin

Reflections from LFKS Conference 2015-Wichita

I had the privilege of attending the Learning Forward Conference, “Bridge to Change” in February. First of all, it was a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with staff from other schools in a very nice and comfortable environment. The speakers that were brought in were great and I took away numerous things to try in our building with our staff. One of my favorite break-out sessions was on “Game-Based Challenges” that Dyane Smokorowski and her team from Andover presented on. Not only was it a fun and lively session, but one where everything they presented I wanted to steal and implement in our district. Each member of Dyane’s team was highly energetic and excited about the technology they had been introduced to and had been using in very cool and innovative ways in their own classrooms. One specific thing, out of about 20, I took away from this session was a way to make online badges for our teachers. This is a neat thing to do that is hands on as well as gives staff some recognition for working hard and trying new things! Would definitely recommend anyone who wants to try and do a tech challenge with their staff to give Andover a call or invite them to your school! They were a blast!

By Lindsay Hansen

Announcing Retirement of Executive Director

We would like to thank Sandee Crowther for her years of leadership to Learning Forward Kansas. Sandee has been our Executive Director for twenty-two years and will be retiring in June, 2015.

Sandee helped form our Kansas affiliate organization in 1988 after attending her first NSDC Conference the previous year. Professional learning has been so important to Sandee that she has not missed a NSDC/Learning Forward Conference since she began over twenty-seven years ago.

As an NSDC Board of Trustees member in 1992, she helped our Kansas affiliate become stronger and more visible. This work continues today. It is evident effective professional learning is near and dear to Sandee's heart. She is passionate about professional learning and her life's work to support it.

Sandee Crowther has contributed over twenty-two years of leadership to this organization, and her achievements will not be forgotten. Her leadership and advocacy is noticed and appreciated! Thank you, Sandee!



Advocacy in Action

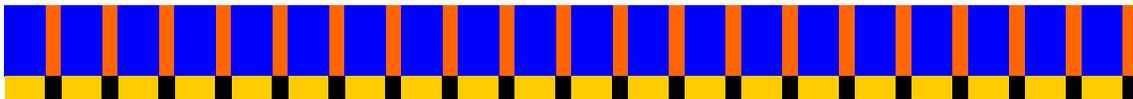


Advocacy is who we are! Kelly Staton, KSDE Education Program Specialist, led our “Learning” session by focusing on the new state accreditation model, Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA). She shared the framework (5Rs: Relationships, Relevance, Responsive Culture, Rigor, and Results), timeline for districts, Outside Validation Team, similarities with QPA, and possible strategies/protocols that can be used with our organizations and local districts as we introduce KESA.

As part of a year long study of change and the Standards for Professional Learning, Dayna Richardson, KLFA chair, focused on the standard Learning Designs, as demonstrated by Kelly Slaton, focusing on multiple learning designs. The design depends on the purpose; one size does not fit all.

Finally, members were updated on legislative and policy issues, including ESEA. All members were encouraged to continue advocating for our students, our educators and our Kansas schools. The next meeting will be June 11 at KNEA.

For more information on KLFA, visit its Website at KLFA.org.



Announcing New Executive Director

The Learning Forward Kansas Board is pleased to announce Dayna Richardson as the new Executive Director. Dayna is replacing long-time Executive Director, Sandee Crowther, who is retiring.

Dayna has many strengths that made her an incredibly strong candidate for the position. As a past president and board member of LFKS, Dayna brings a wealth of information and experience to the leadership team. Dayna is actively engaged in the organization through her work with the Executive Leadership Program, facilitating professional learning opportunities, and represents LFKS on Kansas Learning First Alliance. Dayna is also actively engaged at the national level through her work with Learning Forward. Dayna is passionate about effective professional learning and believes that learning happens through a spirit of inquiry, curiosity and shared leadership. Dayna will be facilitating our Advance in Stafford on June 9-10. Please join us in welcoming Dayna as our new Executive Director!



Learning Forward Kansas Leadership Team for 2015-2016

We are excited to officially announce the LFKS Board of Directors and Leadership Team for 2015-2016. Elected board members will begin their term at the Advance on June 9-10 in Stafford, Kansas.

Learning Forward Kansas Board:

- Kim Panzer, Lakin, Representative B - West of 281
- Judy Beedles-Miller, Dodge City, Representative A - West of 281
- Jennifer Griffin, Salina, Teacher Representative A
- Lindsay Hansen, Atchinson, Principal Representative
- Amanda Grier, Andover, Representative A - East of 281
- Eric Shipman, Clearwater, Representative B - East of 281
- Michele Peres, Wichita, Teacher Representative B
- Betty Young, Topeka, District Office Representative
- Sandy Guidry, KSDE Representative
- Sherri Schwanz, KNEA Representative
- Tamara Konrade, ESSDACK, Service Center Representative
- Donna Augustine-Shaw, KSU, Higher Education Representative

Learning Forward Kansas Executive Board:

- Pam Irwin, President
- Jill Bergerhofer, President-Elect
- Vicki Bechard, Secretary
- Lana Evans, Past President

Learning Forward Kansas Staff:

- Dayna Richardson, Executive Director
- Sonya Schifferdecker, Communications Coordinator
- Tom Jerome, Treasurer



L-R: Jill Bergerhofer, Amanda Grier, Pam Irwin, Jennifer Griffin, Betty Young, Sheila Mortimer



2014-15 LF KS Board

Elected Officers

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President Elect

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Past President

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Program Committee Chair

Pam Irwin
Leadership Conf Chair (2015)
Pam Irwin

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Jill Bergerhofer

Advocacy/Collab. Chair

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