

LEARNING FORWARD FOUNDATION

Educate, Innovate, Transform Educator Professional Learning

The Learning Forward Foundation (LFF) supports 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.



CELEBRATIONS

- Increased fundraising to award five scholarships and two grants
- Welcomed five new Learning Forward Foundation board members and one ambassador, increasing membership from 15 to 21
- Strengthened our partnership between Learning Forward Foundation and Learning Forward, Board of Trustees, and the Learning Forward Academy
- Increased our support of Learning Forward's equity and anti-racist statements by helping Awardees develop an equity lens for their work
- Supported each awardee's learning journey with reflective Touchpoint conversations
- Engaged in planning sessions and developed resources for the Learning Forward Academy
- Documented awardee's learning as part of our research efforts

2020 Reflections from our Chair

The year 2020 proved to be a different year than any other year that preceded it. Faced with COVID-19 challenges, face-to-face school closures, a transition to virtual classrooms, and the loss of Learning Forward in-person conference and Academy opportunities, the Learning Forward Foundation persevered. LFF managed to raise funds, award scholarships and grants, stay connected through monthly conference calls and committee work, and engage meaningfully in both a summer and winter virtual retreat.

As we look forward to 2021, LFF intends to amplify our accomplishments by increasing funds to award more scholarships and grants, deepen our equity actions, increase the density of our Learning Forward network, engage in customized and collaborative Touchpoint conversations, and continue to increase the development of resources supporting the Learning Forward Academy.

We are so grateful for our 2020 supporters and look forward to continued partnership in 2021.

Professional Learning with Impact

Learning Forward's (LF) mission is to build the capacity of leaders to establish and sustain highly effective professional learning. The Learning Forward Academy is a key lever to accomplish our organization's mission. The Learning Forward Foundation investment and follow-up support, in tandem with the Academy experience, develops powerful leaders who value professional learning that impacts systems, educators, and students.

As our awardees build capacity as learning leaders - and of their systems, colleagues, and students in their care - the impact of the Academy and Learning Forward Foundation's support is best captured in their own words.

"Previous to the LF Academy our professional development on the campus was not centered on research-based practices. Now, since I have been with the Learning Forward Academy everything we do...includes the research behind why we are doing what we are doing." Mandy Alexander, 2019 Awardee

"One of the challenges I faced earlier was getting the teachers to work together...Now that we are having these conversations the teachers are actually talking to each other more, even outside of our work together...They are discovering the benefits of collaboration." Noline Martin, 2020 Awardee

"I have become more reflective in my actions as a leader, my actions as a coach, my actions as a mentor. I'm able to now see a bigger picture and think about how things impact." Katoria Gaston, 2018 Awardee

"We had a lot of professional learning happening in our district but it was not systematic and aligned necessarily...what I landed on for the scope of this work in the Academy was to develop the leadership capacity of our teachers, they are able to have that type of PLC across the district." Susan Cole, 2018 Awardee

"I have had several touchpoint calls with my LFF TEAM and they have helped me organize my thoughts and find solutions each time! I most recently reached out to them between our touchpoint calls and they all reached out to me individually to support me as I worked to adjust my POP [problem of practice] due to COVID and huge turnover in leadership at my campus." 2020 LFF Survey Respondent



2020 Learning Forward Foundation Award Recipients

Learning Forward Foundation Grants

The LFF Scholarship grants provide support to attend the LF Academy, a two year learning journey working with expert coaches and practitioners from around the world as educators construct knowledge, improve their practice, create better learning conditions for colleagues, and improve results for students.

Constance Easton

LFF Grant Recipient

Coordinator Mental Health, SEL and Counselling
SD 38 Richmond, BC

Project Focus: Building communities of learning for educators to create SEL cultures in their schools that are coherent, evidence based approaches and provide for reflection and continuous improvement that is data centered

Sheri Milkowski

LFF Grant Recipient

Freshman Seminar, College & Academic Planning,
Innovation Pathways Teacher

Worcester Public Schools, Worcester, MA

Project Focus: Design, develop, and implement a Freshman Seminar course in support of at-risk 9th graders

Noline Martin

Patsy Hochman Grant Recipient

Assistant Principal

Richardson ISD, Richardson, TX

Project Focus: Improving reading scores in grades K-3

Natasha Grey

Stephanie Hirsh Scholarship & Grant Recipient

Elementary Mathematics Curriculum Leader
Ardsley UFSD, Ardsley NY

Project Focus: Closing the achievement gap in mathematics for early learners.

Laura McDuffie

Stephanie Hirsh Scholarship & Grant Recipient

Performance & Continuous Improvement Manager
Houston ISD, Houston, TX

Project Focus: Implementing the Cycle of Continuous Improvement - planning, implementation, and facilitation for district-wide professional learning

Dale Hair Affiliate Grant

The Dale Hair Affiliate grant is a one year opportunity to assist Learning Forward affiliate(s) in need of rebuilding, reorganizing, or generating a stronger organization.

Learning Forward South Carolina

Dale Hair Affiliate Grant Recipient

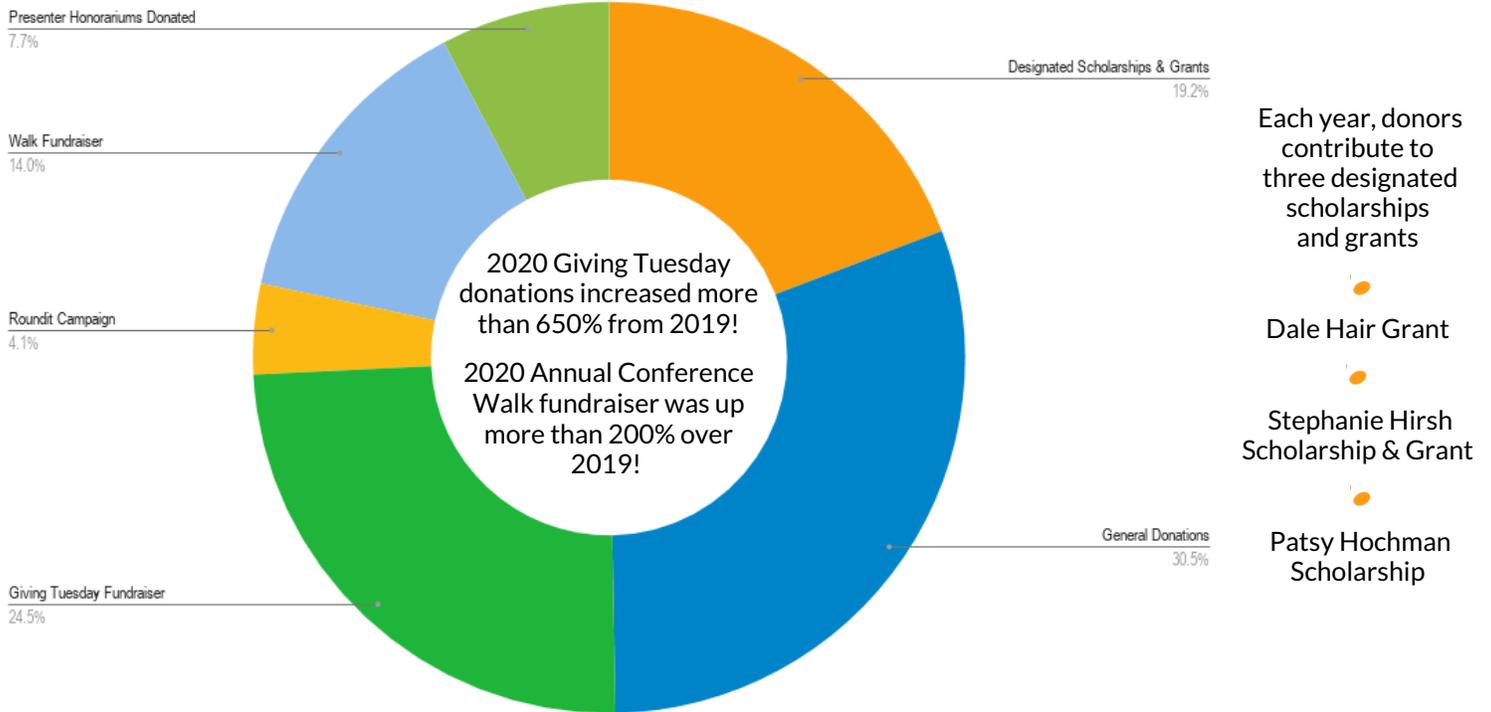
Project Focus: Create a long-range strategic plan that will increase SC educators' knowledge of the Professional Learning Standards and to promote systemic change in educational leadership

Learning Forward Arizona

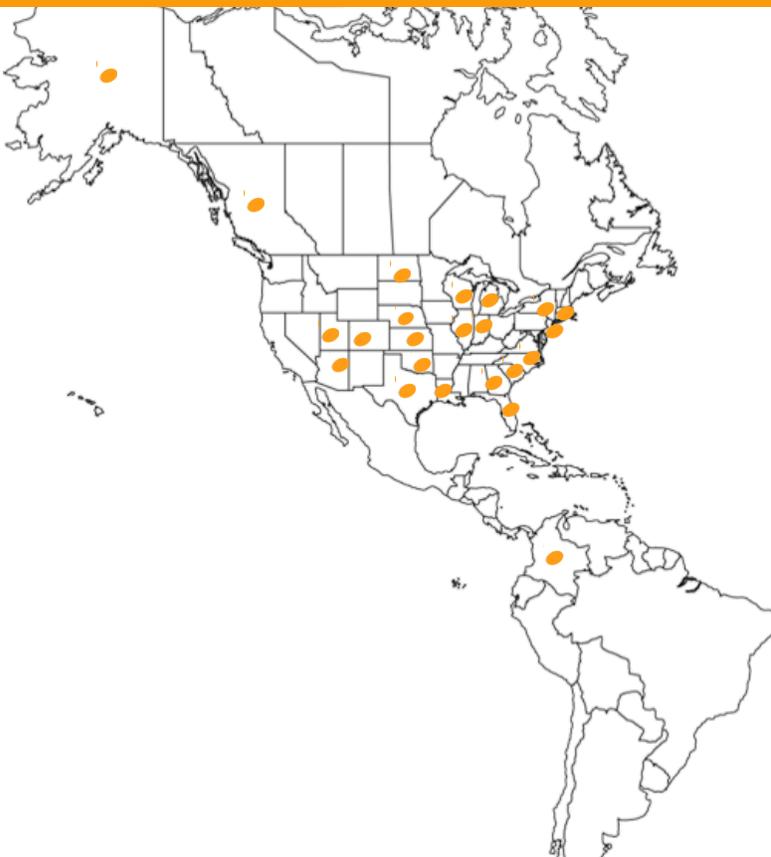
Dale Hair Affiliate Grant Recipient

Project Focus: Establishing a new board, developing affiliate infrastructure and membership, and building financial stability

2020 Learning Forward Foundation Donors Made It Possible



"With each conference meeting date, the foundation has provided me with an opportunity to present and sharpen my problem of practice with my fellow cohort members, my leadership support team, and most recently, through the touchpoint conversation with esteemed members of the Learning Forward Foundation family. Each conversation has pushed me to evaluate and grow clearer about my vision and opportunity to be a change agent. Their thoughtful probing and suggestions have truly helped me gain a better sense of how I can unpack and take actionable steps towards addressing my problem of practice." 2020 LFF Survey Respondent



Fundraising for Innovation and Improvement in Education

The Learning Forward Foundation, through the generous donations of its supporters, has awarded more than **75 scholarships and grants** across **26 states and 3 countries** since 2008

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