

LEARNING FORWARD FOUNDATION

Educate, Innovate, Transform Educator Professional Learning

If not for riding on the shoulders of giants, Learning Forward Foundation would not be what it is today.



Sybil Yastrow

The Learning Forward Foundation wishes to honor one of our founders, Sybil Yastrow, whose generosity, leadership, and passion for professional learning transforms lives. Sybil was one of the early founders of NSDC, served on its executive committee board of trustees. Sybil planted seeds that grew deep roots which will bear fruit for many years and will grow more beautiful each year. Sybil's contributions have enriched and transformed the lives of so many educators and students over the years and will continue to impact future educators, including her decade-long leadership of the Academy program. Sybil co-founded the Learning Forward Foundation to provide scholarships to educators who desired to grow in their knowledge of professional learning. Sybil, we love you and honor you and are forever grateful for the legacy you leave, the hearts you inspired, and the future educators you will impact. To honor her leadership her husband Shelby Yastrow established the Sybil Yastrow Academy Scholarship which will be offered for the first time in 2023. This generous gift will support educators to engage in the two and a half year learning experience that the Learning Forward Academy offers.



Cindy Harrison

Cindy joined NSDC in 1982 and served as an active member, presenting at conferences, writing for publications, and supporting various initiatives. She was elected to the board of the National Staff Development Council (now Learning Forward) in 2000 and served as its president in 2004. She is the co-author of two books, *Taking The Lead: New Roles For Teachers and School-Based Coaches* and *Coaching Matters* and numerous professional articles and training manuals. In her work, she pioneered many initiatives including a unique partnership among the University of Colorado and local school systems to support teachers in earning advanced degrees, school-based coaching, and facilitation training for all staff to empower them with the skills and tools to collaborate productively to address complex issues. She continued to serve as a senior consultant to Learning Forward (NSDC) and to schools and school systems throughout the U.S.

When one thinks about what it means to be a benefactor, Hayes comes into view. His lifelong commitment to and passion for social justice, excellence in education for all students, and support for their educators resulted in multiple initiatives and programs that brought his passion to life. Hayes served as the program director for early adolescent education at the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation where he funded the first and second professional learning standards development initiatives, the results-based staff development initiative, and numerous school system initiatives to strengthen middle school education and student achievement. Hayes's partnership with Learning Forward continued when he became the Senior Fellow and trusted and wise advisor to Learning Forward's leaders and Board of Trustees. As a prolific writer and thinker, he delivered speeches and authored articles and blogs that were both blunt and direct, often filled with powerful messages that provoked action to achieve equity in education for every student.



Hayes Mizell

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

What a year 2022 has been for the Foundation as everyone emerges from the heaviness of the pandemic and the Foundation deepens its connection with donors and awardees. Due to the generous contributions of the Foundation's donors and the support of Learning Forward staff there is much to celebrate. The Learning Forward Foundation

- entered into a partnership agreement with Learning Forward, affirming the Foundation's support of Learning Forward's mission to create a professional learning movement, and Learning Forward's commitment to continue communicating, planning collaboratively, and offering human resources to support the work of the Learning Forward Foundation.
- established the Sybil Yastrow Academy Scholarship in honor of the Foundation's dear friend and founding member to be offered for the first time in 2023 through the generous donation of Shelby Yastrow.
- created an Equity in Action professional learning series for Learning Forward affiliates to collaboratively engage in deep equity work aligned with Learning Forward's revised standards for professional learning. The five sessions supported inside-out professional learning exploration with participants examining their own equity learning and how they can support the learning of those with whom they serve.
- established the Equity in Action Fund to support the development of grant recipients' expertise as agents of change who create cultures of continuous improvement, and build collective responsibility for equitable and excellent outcomes for all students.

At the heart of all the Learning Forward Foundation does is the success of the grant and scholarship recipients which is only possible through the generosity of donors who provide the funds to support professional learning through Learning Forward's Academy and affiliates. The Foundation is grateful for its donors' ongoing support to create a professional learning movement.

Dr. Deb Radi, LFF Chair

2022 Scholarship and Grant Recipients



Juliane Berquam

Peoria Unified School District, AZ
Learning Forward Foundation Academy Scholarship



Gwendolyn Best

Petersburg City Public Schools, VA
Patsy Hochman Academy Scholarship



Miladys Cepero-Perez

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, FL
Stephanie Hirsh Academy Scholarship



Alicia Himes

Los Lunas Schools, NM
Learning Forward Foundation Academy Scholarship



Amy MacCrimble

Huntley Community School District 158, IL
Learning Forward Foundation Academy Scholarship



Laura Callaghan & Brian Weishar

Learning Forward Ontario
Dale Hair Affiliate Grant

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.

Academy Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to support the learning opportunities for educators to participate in the Learning Forward Academy, the flagship deep learning experience of Learning Forward. Academy awardees identify a Problem of Practice (PoP) that will increase their capacity as an educational leader, while also supporting the learning of adults and students in the ever-changing landscape of education in their own context. 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 2022 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 2022 awardees are focused, and the Learning Forward Foundation is supporting and cheering them on!

Affiliate Grants

The Dale Hair Grant supports a Learning Forward affiliate to rebuild, reorganize, or generate a stronger organization to strategically broaden opportunities for educators to learn. 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.

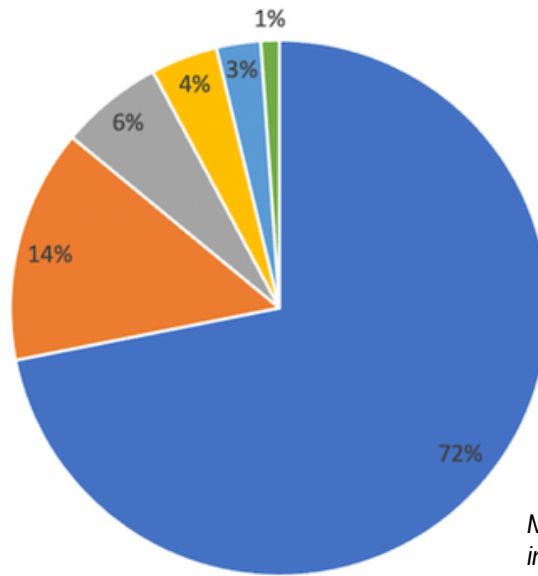
2022 Scholarship and Grant Awardee's Problems of Practice

1. Creating a Culture of Equity for each and every student in the district by shining a spotlight on and mitigating the inequities that exist in the district related to students with significant cognitive impairments. Higher expectations, shared responsibility, and a continuous cycle of learning will demonstrate support for every child.
2. Improving student achievement by identifying gaps in professional learning. Developing and implementing a plan for professional learning and action research for teachers will focus on the specific needs and deficiencies of students.
3. Growing teacher leadership capacity in the district by creating structures and opportunities for collaboration and learning between members of the Professional Learning Support Team and classroom teachers. Together these teacher leaders will learn, conduct action research, and implement programs and practices to improve overall teacher practice and student achievement in their schools.
4. Developing the workforce by examining the existing professional learning and providing support for teachers holding alternative licenses. The district will create an enhanced program of professional learning that will ensure an equitable system of success for all students.
5. Using technology by more effectively focusing on membership, access, and collaboration across the Canadian Province of Ontario. This Affiliate award will improve their user experience through more effective website design and maintenance, and the promotion of their events to garner more interest, and increase their Learning Forward membership.

"If we don't do some work around examining biases, then we might have prepared teachers for a classroom of students they don't have."
Alicia Himes, 2022 Awardee

2022 Learning Forward Foundation Donors Made It Possible

- Sybil Yastrow Academy Scholarship
- Dale Hair Affiliate Grant
- Stephanie Hirsh Academy Scholarship
- LFF Walks
- General Donations
- LFF Academy Scholarship
- Giving Tuesday



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

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 FY22 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 **83 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 below.

