

KS Direct Connection

LEARNING  
FORWARD  
KANSAS

DECEMBER 2011

AN AFFILIATE OF



Do not go  
where the path  
may lead;  
go where  
there is no path  
and leave a trail.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



## DRIP ..... or ..... DRIY ?

By Jill Berherhofer  
Education Services Support  
USD 229, Blue Valley

How many educators have lost rest because of an annoying drip that seems just outside their ability to control? I am not referring to the drip of a leaky faucet, but to the DRIP of a Data Rich Information Poor education environment brought on by an explosion of data (DuFour).

Rick Stiggins, founder of the Assessment Training Institute, recounts our "assessment legacy" in his work

"New Assessment Beliefs for a New School Mission." While it is a commonly held belief that DRIP is due to the accountability demands brought on by No Child Left Behind, Stiggins traces the beginnings as far back as 60 years (Stiggins, 2004).

We have certainly experienced DRIP syndrome in my own district as we have strived to meet external accountability demands as well as staying true to our fly wheel of personalized student learning. A short list of data generating practices currently in my district includes Primary MAP; MAP Survey with Goals 2-6 and 6+; MAP End of Course Algebra; Kansas State

Assessments in Reading, Math, and Science; practice ACT and SAT; ACT Trilogy; unit and chapter tests; quizzes; semester finals; running records; writing assessments; common *continued on page 2*

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## Leadership Conference

### A *LEARNING* School In *ACTION*

April 10-11, 2012

Airport Hilton

Wichita, KS

From the keynote address "Movin' from Talk to Walk" to breakout sessions on common core, technology, professional learning and more, the annual LF KS conference promises tips and tools on building "A Learning School In Action." Read more on page 5.

## 'Data Rich' Leads To 'Information Yielding'

*continued from page 1*  
 assessments; AFLs/AOLs; formative/summative assessments; curriculum mapping...You get the picture. Two suggestions that can help teachers and schools manage and make sense of such vast amounts of data are 1) categorizing by type and purpose, and 2) following a data protocol.



Image: renjith krishnan / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Understanding the type of data with which a teacher is working has helped our PLC teams answer the guiding questions – What do we want students to know and be able to do? How will we know when they are learning? What are we going to do if they don't learn? What do we do if students already know it? (DuFour, 2004). (See chart 1.)

The goal of understanding the purpose of the data is to help each student achieve to his or her highest potential. (See chart 2.) Organizing data around purpose helps teachers answer the questions – What do I need to know to accomplish my goal? What data will help me?

Following a protocol ensures a systematic approach to analyzing the data and provides a step-by-step process teachers can follow no matter the type or purpose of their data. Our district protocol, adapted from the TERC Using Data Initiative, follows a five-step process. (See chart 3.)

*continued on page 3*

## Calendar



## Countdown

### LF KS Board Meetings

April 10, 2012  
 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
 Wichita Airport Hilton  
 Wichita, KS

### LF KS Awards

Apply by January 15.

### \*NEW LF KS AWARD\*

LF KS announces the "Cycle of Continuous Improvement" Award. Look for details on page 6.

## A LEARNING School In ACTION

Learning Forward Kansas  
 Annual Conference  
 April 10-11, 2012  
 Wichita Airport Hilton  
 Wichita, KS

### LF KS Board Advance

June 6-7, 2012  
 Hesston, KS

Chart 1

Types of Data	Rule of Thumb: Use at least 3 types of data to make a decision.
1. Student Achievement Data	Student performance observed and measured. Achievement, growth or progress, and aptitude assessments.
2. Curriculum Data	Data collected from individual curriculum maps: content, skills, assessments of and for learning, alignment to standards.
3. Perceptual Data	Data collected reflecting how students, parents, staff feel about different aspects of school, including curriculum and instruction.
4. Student Data	Includes enrollment data, attendance, referrals, demographic information, sub-group information, home life information.
5. Research Data	Credible research data describing what works.

Chart 2

The View	The Level	The Purpose	The Data
30,000 feet	District	Monitor Strategic Plan goals; decisions on district programs, interventions, district curriculum work.	
5,000 feet	Building	Monitor School Learning Plan goals; decisions on new goals, building-wide interventions, building curriculum mapping focus.	
1,000 feet	Team	Department/Grade level interventions; team goals for student learning; determining focus for consensus curriculum mapping work and common assessment work; aligning maps to standards.	
Home	Class/Indiv.	Build healthy environment/relationships for learning. Adjusting instruction based on formative assessments; check to see if standards are covered; determine what knowledge and skills each student needs; monitor progress and engage students in monitoring progress and goal-setting; set literacy goals.	

Kansas Learning  
 First Alliance  
 "Making Kansas first  
 in the nation  
 in teaching and learning"  
[www.klfa.org](http://www.klfa.org)



# Craig's Corner **Leadership For Learning**

By Craig Correll  
LF KS President

The new emphasis on accountability for learning will drive the need for successful instructional leaders within our schools. Tomorrow's leaders must know not only how to run a school, but more importantly how to engage teachers to embrace the concept that all students can learn and learn at high levels. Conveying this message is the top priority of the instructional leader.

Through the use of learning communities, the principal can facilitate teams of teachers creating their own common vision. While successful instructional leaders must be knowledgeable about curriculum, effective pedagogical strategies and assessment, they also need to be an instructional resource to the teachers. Principals should be well informed on current educational trends and effective instructional practices. By becoming a valuable instructional resource, principals now find themselves in a key role, that of a supporter of teachers and learning.

The leader must now learn to meet the needs of the teachers in order to facilitate high learning success for all students. The top priority of the principalship must be leadership for learning. DC



Joellen Killion, Senior Advisor for Learning Forward, chats with Dayna Richardson, KSDC Past President, at the 2011 LF KS Leadership Conference. Both educators will be featured speakers at the next LF KS Leadership Conference, which will be held in April, 2012 in Wichita.

## *District-Wide Data Protocol Brings Focus To Team Conversations*

*continued from page 2*

Understanding the type and purpose of our data, and having a district-wide protocol for analyzing and using the data has helped staff embed the TERC tip "Make Data Observations: Before Identifying Solutions, Get All the Facts on the Table" into ongoing conversations around student learning. These critical team conversations have started and kept our fly wheel turning. We now celebrate that our learning environments are DRIY - Data Rich Information Yielding.

To learn more visit these websites:

- All Things PLC. [www.allthingsplc](http://www.allthingsplc)
- Assessment Training Institute. <http://www.assessmentinst.com/> (A free DVD containing Rick Stiggins' article New assessment beliefs for a new school mission is available through ATI)
- Curriculum Mapping Institute. [www.curriculum21.com](http://www.curriculum21.com)
- TERC. Using Data. [www.usingdata.terc.edu](http://www.usingdata.terc.edu) DC

Chart 3

Data Protocol Steps	
1. Build the foundation	Examine data from at least three sources
2. Identify student learning needs	Dig more deeply looking at disaggregated data
3. Verify causes	Use at least three types of data
4. Generate solutions	Develop SMART goal with action plan
5. Achieve student learning goal	Use both assessments for and assessments of learning



Just in time for the holidays...

## Web 2.0 Tips To Power Up Your Technology Tool Chest

By Mary Adcock  
Publications Coordinator

Technology is transforming the way educators think about learning. Classroom tools are morphing from paper and pencil to computers and cell phones.

The challenge for educators involves not only learning more about the wide array of opportunities now available through technology, but also deepening an understanding of how those tools connect with classroom and staff learning.

Technology also brings a new spark of power in terms of professional learning. If you have: googled, blogged, skyped, twittered, wikied, landed on a ning, or wallwished, then you've experienced some of that power. Yet in the ever-changing world of technology, there's always more to explore.

With that in mind, as we look toward the holidays, take a moment to unwrap a few new Web 2.0 tools for your technology tool chest. Below are a few tools that offer avenues for educators to communicate, collaborate, and connect with new learning.

**Wiki**  
[wikispaces.com](http://wikispaces.com) - Write text and collect images, documents, and multi-media files around a special topic. Multiple users may collaborate to create and edit the

document. K-12 plan wikis are free. Check out how educators are utilizing wikis in instruction at:  
<http://wikisineducation.wetpaint.com/>

**Del.icio.us**  
[del.icio.us.com](http://del.icio.us.com) - Save and organize favorite internet links. Compiled information can be shared with colleagues.

**Wallwisher**  
[wallwisher.com](http://wallwisher.com) - Create a online billboard as a means of collaborative brainstorming, discussion, or reflection or for individual notetaking.

**Dropbox**  
[dropbox.com](http://dropbox.com) - Store and share photos, videos, and documents.

**Prezi**  
[prezi.com](http://prezi.com) - Create presentations on a zoomable canvas. Presentations are saved and shared online.

**Gliffy**  
[gliffy.com](http://gliffy.com) - Create flow charts, diagrams, and more; prepare documents alone or as a part of online collaboration.

**Edmodo**  
[edmodo.com](http://edmodo.com) - Create an online community with students or staff members in order to share information and documents or launch discussions.

**Poll Everywhere**  
[polleverywhere.com](http://polleverywhere.com) - Gather data with instant reporting of incoming results. Survey respondents answer through text message.

**Intel**  
Enroll in free online courses concerning instruction within a 21st Century learning environment. Courses include: Thinking Critically with Data, Educational Leadership in the 21st Century, Assessment in

21st Century Classrooms, and Collaboration in the Digital Classroom. Courses can be launched via the Intel website at:  
<http://www.intel.com/about/corporateresponsibility/education/programs/elements.htm>



Image: digitalart / [FreeDigitalPhotos.net](http://FreeDigitalPhotos.net)

**Teacher Tube**  
[teachertube.com](http://teachertube.com) - Engage in 24/7 professional learning on a variety of educational topics through videos, documents, pictures, and podcasts posted by fellow educators. Share ideas and expertise by uploading information.

Want to know more?  
Visit the wiki, "Web 2.0: Cool Tools for Schools"  
<http://cooltoolsforschools.wikispaces.com/Home> DC



Searching for a way to stay connected with a network of staff developers 24/7?  
**Learning Forward Kansas is now on Facebook.**

Find a link on the KSDC website.

[learningforwardkansas.org](http://learningforwardkansas.org)

# 'A Learning School in Action': MOVIN' From TALK To WALK

By Melissa Green  
2012 Leadership Conference Chair

tional service center in Kansas, and is also one of eight Kansas coaches for Coaching For Results, Inc. She has done

"A Learning School in Action" will be the focus when Learning Forward Kansas holds its annual leadership conference April 10-11, 2012 at the Airport Hilton in Wichita, KS. The conference will open with Dayna Richardson, M.Ed, and Dr. Nancy Bolz as kickoff speakers.

Richardson and Bolz will facilitate an interactive review of Learning Forward's new Professional Learning Standards. Be ready for possibility thinking and solution finding. Explore how to use the new Learning Forward Standards. Identify how to boldly move your school/district forward in



Image: digitalart / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

implementing these standards. Walk away with a plan for professional learning that is interactive, relevant, sustained, and embedded in everyday practice.



Dayna Richardson, M. Ed.



Dr. Nancy Bolz

Dayna Richardson, M.Ed, has served as an Assistant Superintendent, Gifted Education Teacher and Coordinator. She is the original director of an educa-

extensive work with Professional Learning Communities, including Adaptive Schools, data-driven dialogue and teacher leadership.

Dr. Nancy Bolz served in school systems in Kansas for 20 years and with AdvancED Kansas for 11 years. She taught physical education, health, and sex education in Wellington, Dodge City, and Derby; served as the School Improvement and Staff Development Coordinator for Newton; and was the principal of Abilene High School. She is currently the director of AdvancED Kansas and an adjunct professor for Wichita State University for Educational Leadership.

Joellen Killion will also be a featured presenter at the Leadership Conference, facilitating two breakout sessions. Killion is a Senior Advisor for Learning Forward, focusing her work on improving professional learning for all educators. Participants at her breakout sessions will explore the attributes of a learning school and use Configuration Maps for school-based roles to assess the status of learning communities. DC

## Leadership Conference Breakout Sessions Offer Learning For Teachers, Staff Developers, Administrators

The 2012 Learning Forward Leadership Conference features a variety of breakout sessions showcasing best practices by Kansas educators.

- Topics include:
- Leadership Strategies to Increase Student Achievement
  - Transforming Your School One Conversation At A Time
  - Literature Circles in High School
  - Finding Mentor Texts to Impact Your Writing Mini-Lessons

- Teaching Math in the Common Core
- What Is A Learning School?
- What Makes Professional Learning Meaningful?
- Changes in Professional Learning In Kansas
- My Learning Plan User Group

### Wrap-Up Session

Brad Neuenswander, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services Kansas State Department of Education, will lead the conference wrap-up session April 11. Neuenswander will inform Kansas educators about the Common Core Standards and the insight of the future of AYP and QPA.

### Registration

Information about conference registration and lodging will be available on the Learning Forward Kansas website in mid-January, <http://learningforwardkansas.org/DC>

## New Award for 2012!

# Learning Forward Kansas Sponsors Cycle Of Continuous Improvement Award

By Sheri Thomas  
Awards Team Chair  
LF KS President-Elect

Learning Forward Kansas (LF KS) wants to recognize a school team that successfully implements the cycle of continuous learning for professional learning that results in student achievement. The team who demonstrates that it uses student learning data to set goals for student and educator learning, engages in collaborative professional learning, taps the expertise of team members and others when appropriate, reflects on the impact of their learning on student achievement, and engages in ongoing improvements.

Your school can apply by completing the following:

1. Prepare a 10-12 minute video that depicts your school team engaged in the cycle of continuous improvement as described in Learning Forward's definition of professional learning. The video must include identification of the school, district, location, and people included in the film. (When your video is ready to upload, please contact Sheri Thomas, Awards Chair, at [thomass@mcclouth.org](mailto:thomass@mcclouth.org) for the username and password for the LF KS YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/LFKS2012](http://www.youtube.com/LFKS2012).)

Resources for the video can include:

- *Becoming a Learning School* by Joellen Killian and Patricia Roy may be used as a reference.

- "PD in Action" video clips on the Learning Forward website Definition of Professional Learning page may be used as examples of professional learning interactions.

A collaboration of reviewers will independently score submissions using the Learning School Innovation Configuration Map, Outcome 2.1-2.7. This IC Map is available on the LF KS website under "Awards". Final voting for the winning video will



be made available to all members of LF KS.

2. Please submit a document (no more than 5 pages) to include:
  - Name of the school, school address, and phone number
  - Name of contact person, email of contact person, phone number of contact person
  - Name of school principal
  - Name of district superintendent and address
  - Description of how the team exemplifies Learning Forward's definition of professional learning, including results the team has achieved over time

- School-wide results in student achievement over the last three years
- List of people included in the video.

3. Submit principal's letter of recommendation of the team on school/district letterhead.

4. Submit signed, original release forms from those included in the video giving Learning Forward Kansas permission to use the video on its website. Learning Forward Kansas may choose to post multiple videos. Use the Talent Release Form, available on the LF KS website, for this information.

5. Submit all the above items (postmarked on or before January 15, 2012) to:  
Sheri Thomas, LF KS Awards Team  
McLouth USD 342  
217 Summit  
McLouth, KS 66054  
[thomass@mcclouth.org](mailto:thomass@mcclouth.org)

The winning school will be recognized at the LF KS Leadership Conference. This exemplary school will receive:

- A certificate of recognition
- A banner for the school announcing the award
- A one-year building membership in LF KS
- Two registrations to a LF KS learning opportunity

Direct any questions concerning this application to Sheri Thomas, [thomass@mcclouth.org](mailto:thomass@mcclouth.org) DC

### Remember January 15:

Deadline for submission for the Cycle of Continuous Improvement Award, plus all other LF KS Awards: Systemic Learning  
21st Century Skills  
Professional Learning Community  
Classified Professional Learning Impact  
Staff Developer of the Year



LF KS is an affiliate member of Learning Forward

[learningforward.org](http://learningforward.org)

Every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves.

KLFA News

# Planning Focuses On Developing Understanding Of Common Core

Implementation of the Common Core Standards (CCS) was a key focus of the October Kansas Learning First Alliance (KLFA) meeting. KLFA work groups (Student Achievement and Professional Learning) devoted much of their efforts to planning learning opportunities for educators in the field in conjunction with the Kansas State Department of Education. The CCS learning opportunities will start in the fall of 2011 and extend through the summer of 2012.

Community Engagement continued their work in the development of their second Public Service Announcements. They are also strategically identifying additional partnerships that KLFA might form.

The membership collectively tackled the evaluation of the KLFA website using a Google Doc survey. This data will be used to update the website. The Google Doc work also served as

a professional learning activity for members.

The three groups work toward improving student achievement, strengthening the professional learning of educators, and engaging the public in school improvement and student achievement efforts. To focus their work, three general goals offer guidance. They are:

- KLFA will broadly disseminate its work to influence practitioners.
- KLFA will increase its visibility among policy makers.
- KLFA will strengthen and increase its organizational capacity.

KLFA celebrates its 13th birthday at the January meeting, which will be held Jan. 5, 2012.

For more information about KLFA, visit the KLFA website and/or look for "Kansas Learning First Alliance" on Facebook. [DC](#)



## Beliefs of Learning Forward Kansas

The ultimate purpose of staff development is to improve student learning.

A staff developer is anyone who systematically enables others to change their professional behavior.

Effective staff developers use a research base to continually define and refine best practices.

Collaboration strengthens staff development.

Effective organizational development is required if all students are to learn.

Organizational development requires individual change.

Each educator has a moral responsibility to improve professional effectiveness through life-long learning.

Reinforcement and support systems are critical to the transfer of learning into practice.

Ongoing assessment is critical for effective staff development decisions.

\* Poster above created at [www.bighugelabs.com](http://www.bighugelabs.com)

### GOT PRESENTS TO BUY?

*Try giving a gift that will still be on hand long after the lights and ribbons of the season are put away.*

*Give a gift that brings professional learning, peer connections, and possibilities.*

**Give the gift of a membership in Learning Forward Kansas.**

It's easy to wrap and can even be used as a stocking stuffer! It's the perfect fit for a colleague or a pre-service teacher. For more information, see our website

[learningforwardkansas.org](http://learningforwardkansas.org)



Image: photostock / [FreeDigitalPhotos.net](http://FreeDigitalPhotos.net)

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