

**KS Direct Connection**

LEARNING FORWARD KANSAS

OCTOBER 2012

AN AFFILIATE OF



*The world needs dreamers  
and the world needs doers.  
But above all, the world  
needs dreamers who do.*

Sarah Ban Breathnach

## 21st Century Learning Project Based Learning Deepens Instruction, Addresses Common Core Standards

By Jill Bergerhofer  
Education Services Support Team,  
USD 229, Blue Valley

We now know that the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) look very different than our recently replaced state standards. Our current task is to determine how to best teach the new standards in a way that “focuses on depth rather than coverage, thinking rather than memorizing or listing, and demonstrating and performing rather than ‘hand it in and grade it’” (Markham, 2012). Underscoring the standards is the importance of creating assignments that require students to write routinely over extended time frames for a range of real

tasks, for real audiences and with real purpose (p.41). To successfully implement the new standards, while meeting the needs of our 21<sup>st</sup> century learners, teachers will need to embrace “innovative best practices that persuade and prepare students to engage in thoughtful problem solving, as well as encourage better performance through more sophisticated, broad-based assessments” (Markham, 2012). This can be accomplished through project-based learning (PBL). Markham (2012) identifies six important parts of PBL, which facilitate the instructional shifts required to meet the CCSS goals - moving from instruction to inquiry; balancing knowledge and skills; going deep; teaching teamwork;

establishing a culture of inquiry; and blending coaching with teaching. To read Markham’s full text of *Project-Based Learning and Common Core continued on page 2*

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**BOSTON** learningforward  
**2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
DEC. 1-5, 2012

Connect. Engage. Learn

LF Annual Conference      December 1-5, 2012      Boston, MA

Join Learning Forward for interactive learning sessions and “cutting-edge” information and ideas. Featured speakers include: Michael Fullan, Andrew Hargreaves, Anthony Jackson, Douglas Reeves, Howard Gardner, and Susan Moore Johnson. Pre-register is now open at [www.learningforward.org](http://www.learningforward.org)

## Project Based Learning Addresses Common Core Standards

continued from page 1

Standards go to <http://www.wholechildeducation.org/blog/project-based-learning-and-common-core-standards/>

To support teachers as we begin offering students real-world learning experience through PBL, Edutopia developed a free classroom guide - *Ten Tips for Assessing Project-Based Learning*. The guide focuses on effective assessment in PBL by walking the user through key phases

of planning, launching into active learning, creating a culminating presentation, and ending with the important stage of reflection. Below is a detailed table of contents for

the guide that shows just how useful this guide can be for the PBL novice or expert.

### PLAN AHEAD

1. Keep It Real with Authentic Products
2. Don't Overlook Soft Skills
3. Learn from Big Thinkers



### LAUNCH INTO LEARNING

4. Use Formative Strategies to Keep Projects on Track
5. Gather Feedback—Fast
6. Focus on Teamwork
7. Track Progress with Digital Tools

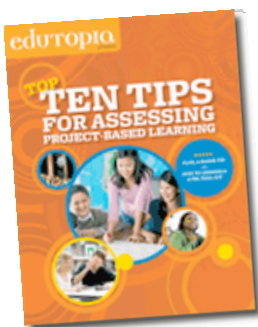
### SHARE WHAT STUDENTS KNOW

8. Grow Your Audience

### REFLECT, REVISE, REVISIT

9. Do-It-Yourself Professional Development
10. Assess Better Together

The guide also comes with an added bonus section that provides tips titled *How to Assemble Your PBL Tool Kit*. To download your free copy of *Ten Tips for Assessing Project-Based Learning* go to <http://www.edutopia.org/10-tips-assessment-project-based-learning-resource-guide> DC



## Common Core Regional Learning Lab Offering The Tools For Change

Linking together the pieces for student achievement



Smoky Hill Learning Center  
October 18, 2012  
Topeka Shawnee County Library  
January 16, 2013

## Calendar Countdown



### Putting the New Standards into Practice

**KSDE Preconference facilitated by LF KS**  
November 5, 2012  
Wichita, KS

### Common Core Regional Learning Lab

**Topeka Shawnee County Public Library**  
1515 Southwest 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS  
Wed., January 16, 2013

### 2012-2013

### LF KS Board Meetings

**November 5, 2012**  
**April 23, 2013**  
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Wichita, KS

### Ascend To Greater Heights

**LF KS Annual Leadership Conference**  
April 23-24, 2013  
Wichita, KS

### Board Advance

June 12-13, 2013  
Valley Falls, KS

### Surf on over...

to the **LF KS Facebook** page, a 24/7 connection. Link up at [www.learningforwardkansas.org](http://www.learningforwardkansas.org)



## Start With the Basics:

# Prerequisites of Effective Professional Learning

By Sheri Thomas  
LF KS President

In the August issue of *Direct Connection*, I chose to list characteristics of professional learning.

I would like to continue this topic by examining the four prerequisites of effective professional learning. The new seven standards focus on educator learning that relates to student learning.



These fundamental

prerequisites are not identified or described in the standards list themselves but “reside where professional learning intersects with professional ethics” as stated in the *Quick Reference Guide* created by Learning Forward.

**Prerequisite 1: Educators’ commitment to students, all students, is the foundation of effective professional learning.**

Educators must engage in continuous improvement to know enough and be skilled enough to meet the learning needs of all students.

**Prerequisite 2: Each educator involved in professional learning comes to**



During the board advance in June, Dayna Richardson, Sheri Thomas, Jill Lachenmayr, and Jo McFadden develop strategies for ways in which Learning Forward Kansas can support professional learning throughout the state.

**the experience ready to learn.**

Professional learning is a partnership among professionals who engage with one another to access or construct knowledge, skills, practice, and dispositions

**ways and at different levels.** Professional learning must engage each educator in timely, high-quality learning that meets his or her particular learning needs.

Please visit the [Learning Forward website](#) and the *Quick Reference Guide* for more information on this topic.

I encourage you to visit the [Learning Forward Kansas website](#) to find more information about learning opportunities offered focusing on Common Core Standards (Regional Lab in January) and Putting the New Standards for Professional Learning into Practice (KSDE Pre-conference in November). Also, mark your calendars for the Learning Forward Leadership Conference to be held April 23-24, 2013 in Wichita.

*“Learning must be experienced.”*

Let’s make this the year that we experience quality learning in our schools and spread the “word” – **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING! DC**

**Prerequisite 3: Because there are disparate experience levels and use of practice among educators, professional learning can foster collaborative inquiry and learning that enhances individual and collective performance.** Professional accountability for individual and peer results strengthens the profession and results for students.

**Prerequisite 4: Like all learners, educators learn in different**



Tom Jerome, Vicki Bechard, Suzan Patton, and Lynn Bechtel discuss ways in which professional development can strengthen student achievement.

# Brown To Share Strategies To Help Schools ‘Ascend To Greater Heights’ With Common Core

By Jo McFadden  
Leadership Conference Chair

“Ascend to Greater Heights” will be the focus when Learning Forward Kansas holds its annual Leadership Conference April 23-24, 2013 at the Wichita Doubletree Airport in Wichita, KS. The conference features Frederick Brown, director of strategy and development for Learning Forward, as the keynote speaker. Brown will address the topic, **“Creating the Conditions for Common Core Implementation – Lessons from Kentucky,”** answering through experience the question, “How do we create systems at the state and district levels that support the implementation of these new standards?”

Prior to his appointment at Learning Forward, Brown was a senior program officer at The Wallace Foundation, based in New York City. There he guided the work of several major grantees including the Atlanta-based Southern Regional Education Board and the Institute for Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. Brown also managed Wallace’s role as a strategic partner for leadership initiatives in the states of Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, Oregon, Kansas, and New Jersey. Finally, he supported the development of The Principal Story, the film documentary that followed the journey of two elementary principals throughout a school year as they strived to improve student achievement and implement school reform.



Frederick Brown

In addition to his keynote presentation, Brown will offer two breakout sessions during the conference focusing on “Going Deep with the Standards” and “Becoming a Learning System.”

Breakout sessions emphasizing the areas of common core implementation, leadership, instruction, mentoring, and best practices will also be offered by Kansas educators as a part of the conference. Examples of planned sessions include: addressing academic vocabulary, iPad and the Common Core, opening the door to coaching conversations, and promoting self-questioning through picture book illustrations.

There’s still time to share your experiences and expertise by submitting a proposal. See page 7 for the proposal application or submit a proposal [online](#).

Registration for the conference will open in January. Until then, save the date and plan to spend April 2013 with LF KS as we gain the strategies and tools needed to help staff and students “Ascend to Greater Heights.” [DC](#)

Kansas  
Learning First  
Alliance

“Making Kansas first  
in the nation  
in teaching and learning”

[www.klfa.org](http://www.klfa.org)

**ASCEND TO GREATER HEIGHTS**  
2013 Leadership Conference

**Save the date**

**Conference Strands**

- Common Core
- Leadership
- Instruction
- Mentoring
- Best Practice

**APRIL 23-24, 2013**  
Wichita DoubleTree Airport

*See page 7 to submit a form to be a presenter*



## What Can PD360 Do For You?

By Pam Irwin  
Central Office Representative

PD360, a branch of School Improvement Network, has joined Learning Forward Kansas to provide access to PD360's network of online professional development opportunities. As a Learning Forward Kansas member, you have access to a limited set of videos dedicated to effective professional learning by all educators. The videos target professional learning approaches and how to best meet the needs of educators in order to increase student achievement.

As a PD360 member through Learning Forward Kansas, you have access to resources addressing the following categories:

- Designing and Evaluating Professional Development
- Effective Professional Development

- Implementing Professional Development
- Job-embedded Professional Development

Through accessing these different videos, you will form a clear understanding of how to effectively design, implement, and evaluate professional development for your district. Not only does this resource address theory, but also provides specific examples of where this approach has proven successful in the impact on student achievement.

Each of you should have received an e-mail from PD360 with your login information. If not, to login simply go to [www.pd360.com](http://www.pd360.com). Your log in name is your full email address and the password is pd360. If you have difficulty logging in, contact Jan Beutler, customer service representative, at 1-866-825-4185 x 9594. **DC**

## Professional Development Helps Build Foundation For Success

By Paige Rathbun  
Teacher A Representative

Top two reasons for new educators to get involved in professional development:

1. Contrary to belief, sometimes professional support is irregular and inadequate. In many districts the staff tries to regularly collaborate and help each other. However, due to time restraints and poor training this is not always meaningful. A lot of new teachers end up placed with highly challenging classes without appropriate support and guidance. With proper meaningful professional development, a new educator is then provided the resources and guidance to be successful.

2. The teacher is one of the most important factors influencing students and their achievement. Metaphorically speaking, a teacher is the foundation or solid base guiding students to build knowledge and become successful life-long learners. If there are gaps or cracks in the teacher's "foundation"- eventually the building will begin to lean or teeter. When a new educator enters the teaching world, there must be an understanding that in order to be a successful teacher one must be provided meaningful professional development and have a willingness to continue developing as an educator every day in order to build a strong "foundation." **DC**



Gain access to the most up-to-date information on professional learning

Grow professionally • Grow as a leader

Network with professionals from around the state

Join Learning Forward Kansas

Print and mail the [membership form](#) posted on our website  
or [pay online via PayPal](#)

## LF KS Awards Celebrate Best Practices In Professional Learning

By Ben Smith  
Awards Team Chair

As we get closer to the end of the year, it is important to keep in mind that January 15 is the deadline for nominations for the seven awards. To nominate individuals or districts, please visit

<http://learningforwardkansas.org/awards.html>. Here, you will find a description of the awards with a link to the nomination forms. Please look these nomination documents over in order to provide yourself plenty of time to complete the process. Completed nominations, with any evidence used as supporting documentation, need to be sent to:

Ben Smith  
Learning Forward Kansas Awards Chair  
1300 N Cedar  
Abilene KS, 67410.

**The nomination categories are as follows:**

- Cycle of Continuous Improvement Award
- Classified Professional Learning Award
- Impact Award
- Professional Learning Community Award
- Systemic Learning Award
- 21st Century Skills Professional Development Award
- District Staff Developer of the Year Award

A brief description of the awards can also be found at <http://learningforwardkansas.org/awards.html>.

Recognizing staff for the hard work they do is a great way to promote positive professional relationships and to create a climate where higher levels of student responsibility and learning can occur. Please make sure to have your nominations in by January 15. **DC**

# Tune Into Free Webinars

By Jill Bergerhofer  
Education Services Support Team,  
USD 229, Blue Valley

This month highlights information on finding webinars to supplement or enhance your professional development budget. Below are just a few possibilities.

**ASCD Webinars** - Free webinar series featuring experts and topics like CCSS, 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning strategies, and closing the achievement gap. All webinars are archived for easy accessibility. <http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars.aspx>

**BrainPOP Webinars** - Advertised as "PD...in your PJs!" an extensive archive of webinars that can be viewed any time, shared through email, and used for full staff PD events. Certificates of participation can be received after completing each webinar.

<http://www.brainpop.com/educators/webinars/>

**eduTopia** - A series designed to connect the participants with "thought leaders in the movement for educational reform, providing opportunities to learn about the latest research, tools, and ideas from experts in the field." Full archive of all past webinars are available and accessible at any time.

<http://www.edutopia.org/webinar>

**eSchool News** - A variety of upcoming and archived webinars on the "hottest topics" in education technology.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/events/webinars/>

**Marzano Research Laboratory** - Presentation slides and resources used by Dr. Robert J. Marzano and his associates available. Each free webinar comes with downloadable PDF handouts.

[http://www.marzanoresearch.com/free\\_resources/event\\_presentations\\_webinars.aspx](http://www.marzanoresearch.com/free_resources/event_presentations_webinars.aspx)

**Simple K12 Teacher Learning Community** - Advertises bringing users together with some of the most forward-thinking educators from around the world. The basic membership level is free and comes with a limited number of live and archived webinars. A full membership can be purchased and comes with unlimited access to live hundreds of archived webinars. DC

## KLFA Builds Community Support

Kansas Learning First Alliance (KLFA) began its 14th year of collaboration among key educational organizations in the state in August. The goals for this year are to:

- collaboratively create a "presentation" that can be shared with local community organizations, particularly local chambers of commerce,
- challenge each of our member organizations to present locally, and
- update our website to be more engaging to our communities.

KLFA members were updated on the following topics: the waiver, Kansas Educator Evaluation Protocol (KEEP), Common Core, the accreditation rubric, Kansas Learning Network (KLN), Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), Teaching in Kansas Commission (TIKC), and the new Professional Learning standards. Representatives also addressed several topics, including: new membership and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) for presentations. Visit the [KLFA Website](#) for more information, including agendas for upcoming meetings. DC



## PD on a shoestring



## 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 lifelong learning.

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

Ongoing assessment is critical for effective staff development decisions.



Learning Forward Kansas  
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.*

# Ascend to Greater Heights

## 2013 Leadership Conference



### Submit a **PROPOSAL**

for the Learning Forward Kansas Leadership Conference

#### Proposal Strands

\* **Common Core** \* **Leadership** \* **Instruction** \* **Mentoring** \* **Best Practices**

**Title of Presentation** (as you wish it to appear in the program.)

<b>Lead Presenter</b>	<b>Position/Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
-----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------

**Work or Home Contact Address**

<b>Work Phone (area code)</b>	<b>Fax</b>	<b>Email</b>
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**Proposal Strand** (Check the **one** your presentation best addresses.)

Common Core    
  Leadership    
  Instruction    
  Mentoring    
  Best Practices

**Target Audience** (Check those that apply.)

District Administration    
  College Instructors    
  Principals  
 Teachers    
  Classified

**Presentation Options** (Check one length and one type.)

1 hour and 15 minute session    
  2 hour and 45 minute session  
 Informational    
  Interactive

**Program Description** (Please attach the following:) Your presentation description of no more than 40 words, as you wish it to appear in the program. Include participant outcomes – what will participants know and be able to do as a result of participation in the session.

List the following information for **Additional Presenters**: Presenter, Position/Title, Affiliation, Work or Home Contact Address, Work Phone (area code), and Email.

**Audio Visual Needs** (Presenters must provide their own computers and projectors for Power Point and Internet presentations). The hotel has wireless internet capabilities.

Screen    
  Small AV cart for my equipment that I bring

**Verification**

On behalf of the presenters listed in this proposal, I understand that I (we) must register for the conference and be responsible for all conference registration fees and other expenditures. I understand that it will be my responsibility to notify each of my co-presenter(s) regarding the status of the proposal, the date, time and location of the presentation should it be accepted.

**Submitter Signature**

**Date**

Please submit Proposal On-Line by **Monday, October 29, 2012** at: [www.learningforwardkansas.org](http://www.learningforwardkansas.org) or mail hard copy to: Jo McFadden, Graber Elementary USD 308, 1600 N. Cleveland, Hutchinson, KS 67501.

*All breakout sessions will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, April 23 & 24, 2013.*

## 2012-13 LF KS Board

### Elected Officers

#### President

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#### President-Elect

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#### Past President

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#### Secretary (2014)

Vicki Bechard  
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#### Teacher B (2014)

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#### Principal (2014)

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#### Classified Rep. (2013)

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#### Higher Education Rep.(2013)

Gina Marx  
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#### Rep A East of Hwy 281 (2013)

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#### Rep A West of Hwy 281 (2013)

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#### Rep B East of Hwy 281 (2014)

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#### KSDE Representative (2014)

Sandy Guidry  
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#### Service Center Rep. (2014)

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#### Central Office Rep. (2013)

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### Ex Officio

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#### Nominating Com. Chair

Craig Correll

#### Program Committee Chair

Jill Lachenmayr

#### Leadership Conf. Chair (2013)

Jo McFadden

#### Leadership Conf. Chair (2014)

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Jo McFadden

#### 21st Century Skills Workgroup

Karen Brack

#### Measuring Impact Workgroup

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Ben Smith & Kris Meyer

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