

L YON C OUNTY S SCHOOL DISTRICT

Staff Travel Report
to
School Board of Trustees

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent via Margaret Heim.

Please **TYPE** the following information.

Staff Member: *Dena DeGolyer*

School: *District Office*

Assignment: Conference Attended: Learning Forward 24

Location of Conference: Dates Attended: Denver CO, December 7th-11th

General Overview: The **Learning Forward Annual Conference** is an event focused on professional learning for educators. It gathers education leaders, teachers, and stakeholders worldwide to share innovative practices, explore research-based strategies, and develop actionable skills that support student achievement.

1. **Focus on Professional Learning**

The conference emphasizes effective professional learning practices that are grounded in evidence.

2. **Diverse Topics**

Sessions cover a wide range of topics, such as leadership development, instructional strategies, and data-driven decision-making.

3. **Networking Opportunities**

Participants can connect with educators, district leaders, researchers, and policymakers to exchange ideas, foster collaborations, and learn from one another's experiences.

4. **Resources and Tools**

Attendees gain access to resources, tools, and strategies to implement effective professional learning practices in their schools or districts.

How will this positively impact student learning?

The Learning Forward Conference positively impacts student learning by providing educators with effective strategies (research-based), tools - such as structures for coaching cycles, and insights to enhance their teaching practices and leadership skills.

How will I implement what I learned and how will I share this information with my colleagues?

Listed are the following sessions I attended:

Foundational Coaching Skills for Educators, School Leaders, and Staff

This session structure shares how to create "designed relationships (collaborative agreements), we engaged in a coaching demonstration using powerful questioning techniques. I learned different levels of listening, core value activities, and reflection. This session offered additional insights and examples for fostering authentic conversations about deeply ingrained barriers. I have a resource of powerful questions that can be used during a coaching session.

Keynote Fredrick Brown

"**Frederick Brown** is Learning Forward's president and CEO. Brown's career includes classroom teaching,

school leadership, and roles that prepared him to lead Learning Forward's movement to strengthen student learning and educator practice worldwide through high-quality professional learning." (Learning Forward, 2024)

Make PLCs Purposeful with Collaborative Inquiry

This session discussed setting the stage around purpose and goals, the definition of collaborative inquiry, how to build a culture of collaboration, and strategies to foster trust and accountability. The presenters shared the collaborative inquiry process, which included framing questions, data collection, and actionable steps.

What's Driving Your Team? Coaching Data-Driven Decision Making

This session provided training around the coaching process of planning, doing, studying and acting and identifying strengths and growth opportunities for educators and how teams can decide which kind of "street data" to collect.

Designing and Delivering Brain-Based, Joyful Professional Learning

This session focused on 6 phases for creating meaningful and intentional professional learning around brain-based research. Phase 1: Become interested: identify challenges and barriers, and align professional learning with support. Phase 2: Engage educators in setting personal goals as well as developing indicators and plans for tracking progress. Phase 3: Focus on new learning - provide expert instruction and modeling, evidence-based practices. Phase 4: Make Sense of Learning - provide time and structures for individuals and groups to process learning and "collective participation. Phase 5: Proactive and Reflect - Follow-up and feedback. Phase 6: Extend and apply - structure peer coach to support "precision without prescription."

Habits of Resilient Educators

This learning session focused on habits and practices that enable educators to maintain their well-being, adaptability to challenges, and ways to thrive in their professional career -self-care practices, daily routines associated with gratitude, growth mindset, continuous learning, etc.

Literacy Centered Instructional Coaching

This session focused on research to support literacy-centered coaching methods, discussed the purpose and structure of creating instructional priorities (school-wide), a protocol for driven PLCs in all content areas, learning walks at schools that focused on goals created around instructional priorities, flipped meetings and individual coaching cycles with one-on-one clientele. I was able to learn how to leverage systems and structures to incorporate literacy-centered and instructional coaching for continuous improvement.

During team meetings and collaboration, I will offer key takeaways from the Learning Forward Conference. I will share handouts, visuals, and slide decks of presentations to support discussions/ideas. I will model new strategies and practices when working with teachers.

Other Comments:

The Learning Forward conference was an exceptional experience, offering valuable insights and worthwhile learning opportunities.

 

Principal/Supervisor Approval Director/Deputy Superintendent Approval

Site: District Office: 12-12-2024