



Advancing Professional Learning...Expanding Networking...Supporting

*Collaboration
The Professional Learning Association*

The O'Rourke Prize
2015 Honoree
Beau Foubert

Learning Forward Colorado is honored to present the **15th Annual O'Rourke Prize** to a distinguished Colorado educator **Beau Foubert**. Beau serves as the Director of Professional Learning in Adams 12 Five Star schools.

The O'Rourke Prize, sponsored by Learning Forward Colorado and Mrs. Anne O'Rourke, honors an exemplary leader of professional learning and collaborative practices who has significantly impacted the learning of educators. This annual award is named for the late Dr. Bill O'Rourke, a distinguished Colorado educator. The nomination process addresses the attributes of vision, skills, leadership, and effectiveness as well as the Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning.

Beau was nominated by his colleague, Priscilla Straughn, who stated that "Beau possesses a very clear vision for professional learning in Adams 12 using the acronym Learn, Leverage and Lead as the basis of its framework. Beau believes in the importance of all stakeholders having the opportunity to engage as learner, to access multiple learning opportunities in job-embedded communities, and to engage in personal and professional reflection based on feed back for the purpose of refining one's craft."

In writing about the "effect" of Beau's work, Priscilla wrote that "The largest impact of Beau's work is evidenced in a sense of 'we' in our district. Prior to Beau's arrival as the Director of Professional Learning, opportunities for collegial learning were in silos absent the structures and processes that connected colleagues and buildings. Last year Beau developed six online professional learning modules focused on deepening teachers' and administrators' understanding of the reading standards. It is through this systemic approach that the district became learner in what standards aligned instruction looks like and sounds like at the classroom level."

Beau is mindful of Learning Forward's definition of professional learning and intentionally embeds the Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning as he designs collaborative learning opportunities for stakeholder groups. In a recent professional learning opportunity, he reminded participants that "teaching like a pro is about improving as an individual, raising the performance of the team, and increasing quality across the whole profession" quoting Michael Fullan. Beau embodies the best of a professional learning leader.

We celebrate and solute Beau Foubert's professional learning leadership

Learning Forward Colorado believes the success of all students is dependent upon highly effective educators who engage in ongoing professional learning.