

District Leaders Network

for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning

“The District Leaders Network (DLN) brings together leaders in the region to share cutting-edge work on service-learning done in our schools. We learn from one another and feel connected. DLN ensures that our work continues to be robust and we can support one another.”

~ *Dilafroz Williams*, Portland School Board member, Woodmere Elementary School, Portland, Oregon



Our Mission

To educate and support superintendents and school board members in designing policies and practices consistent with the civic mission of schools.

Our Vision

To ensure that every student in this country has access to quality civic engagement and service-learning experiences, in an effort to create a generation of active, principled citizens.

Our Goals through 2011

To improve student achievement and success by focusing on leadership and implementation in three specific areas:

Development of the NCLC District Leaders Network

- Hosting regional and national forums to communicate strategies, resources and best practices

Engaging members through institutes, priorities and initiatives to connect state policies, district leadership and student competencies

Creation of laboratories for innovation in education

- Supporting network members and their districts and schools as they design laboratories that examine how service-learning enhances student academic knowledge, skills and educational aspirations

Engagement of policymakers and education leaders at all levels

- Informing policymakers, education leaders and service-learning advocates by producing and disseminating a series of research-based policy briefs
- Promoting stronger leadership and vision for service-learning by hosting annual state and regional policy forums



“How better to prepare students to become citizens than to give them real opportunities to make authentic decisions about genuine issues?”

~ **Ada Grabowski** Superintendent, Albion Central School District, Albion, New York



DLN member Dilafruz Williams and students from Woodmere Elementary, Portland Public Schools, working together on an environmental project near their school.

What is the DLN?

In 2006, a national network was created. The Education Commission of the State's National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC), in cooperation with the National School Boards Association and American Association of School Administrators, created a national network of District Leaders for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning (DLN).

This network is comprised of bold and courageous superintendents and school board members who participate in a national leadership network to promote civic engagement for all students. DLN members come from across the country and share a commitment to high-quality citizenship education, engaging and mentoring other leaders to support effective and sustainable civic education and service-learning. Leaders selected for the network engage in service and scholarship to promote these ideals.

The DLN is supported, in part, with funding from:



State Farm
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“Membership in DLN links my district leadership nationally to other leaders committed to public education’s mission, educating all children for productive citizenship by learning values of service above self.”

~ **Jerry Wilson**, Superintendent, Poudre School District, Fort Collins, Colorado

How to Join

Join a national network of committed superintendents and school board members willing to engage in and to promote civic engagement and service-learning for all students.

For membership criteria and to complete the application, go to:
<http://www.ecs.org/DLN>.



Members of the NCLC Executive Board and the District Leaders Network met at the 2009 ECS National Forum on Education Policy in Nashville, Tennessee.

Education Commission of the States (ECS) is the only nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to education. ECS helps governors, legislators, state education officials and others identify, develop and implement public policies to improve student learning at all levels. A nonprofit organization, ECS was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colorado. The National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) is an institute within ECS led by an executive board composed of chief state school officers, district superintendents, state policymakers and national civic leaders. A major priority of NCLC is to assist leaders in developing policies and programs to deepen service-learning and citizenship education in K-12 schools.



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