



2010-11 Network Accomplishments

2010-2011 LESN Steering Committee	
Cheryl Reinhart , <i>Arkansas</i> , NCSL Co-Chair	Paul Headlee , <i>Idaho</i> , ECS Co-Chair
Colleen Atterbury , <i>Illinois</i> , NCSL Appointee	Anne Blankenhorn , <i>Michigan</i> , ECS Appointee
Paula Dominguez , <i>Rhode Island</i> , NCSL Appointee	Brita Darling , <i>Colorado</i> , ECS Appointee
Mary Kenfield , <i>Washington</i> , NCSL Appointee	Stacey Preis , <i>Missouri</i> , ECS Appointee
Jeanette Malafa , <i>Illinois</i> , NCSL Appointee	Kenneth Warlick , <i>Kentucky</i> , ECS Appointee
Christopher Wakeley , <i>Pennsylvania</i> , NCSL Appointee	
Paul Aguilar , <i>New Mexico</i> , NCSL Immediate Past Co-Chair	Robin Madison , <i>Iowa</i> , Immediate Past Co-Chair

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LESN Webpage: <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=788&tabs=857,36,367#857>

LESN Strategic Plan & Working Groups – During 2008-09, the LESN Steering Committee worked diligently to develop a three-year strategic plan creating a blueprint to strengthen the network's current structure and promote future growth. Through this process, the network has identified three strategic issues in which to focus: building and maintain critical mass for leadership, focus and direction on key education policy issues; securing funding to support its activities; and keeping staff updated on key education policy and finance issues, including international benchmarking/comparisons. LESN solicited input and feedback from a broad range of stakeholders, including NCSL and ECS staff and network members at-large. As stipulated in the LESN by-laws, voice votes to formally adopt the strategic plan were called at the ECS National Forum on July 8-10, 2009 in Nashville, TN and at the NCSL Legislative Summit on July 20-24, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA. The plan was unanimously adopted.

This year's Steering Committee has again been focused on implementation. They continued to organize themselves into three working groups that reflect the three strategic issues. The working group on securing funding to support LESN developed a "road map" to guide fundraising efforts over the next two years, secured funding for three webinars, partnered with the NCSL Legislative Health Staff Network to feature a webinar and meeting session on school bullying and secured funding for a 2011 LESN Fall Seminar on Expanded Learning Opportunities

funded by The Wallace Foundation and a 2012 LESN Fall Seminar (topic TBD) funded by The Gates Foundation. The working group on building and maintain critical mass, among other things, worked on securing LESN participation on the NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC), sent out a holiday greeting and included a friendly reminder about LESN services, created a brochure to commemorate LESN's 25th Anniversary, developed a member survey and solidified an LESN logo. The final working group to keep staff updated on key education policy issues continues to find value in Heads Up on Education Issues (which has been widely popular).

25th Anniversary of LESN – The network celebrated LESN's 25th anniversary with recognition at NCSL and ECS' summer meetings. NCSL included a celebratory ad in the Legislative Summit program and honored participants during the business meeting and the Dutch treat dinner. A anniversary brochure was created and disseminated at the NCSL meeting.

Increased Network Participation – LESN added at least 30 members from 19 states to the listserv from September 2010 through August 2011. The LESN listserv serves approximately 337 legislative education staff from across the county.

LESN 2011 Fall Seminar – Planning for the 2011 Fall Seminar on Expanded Learning Opportunities in Tampa, FL on December 2-4 is underway. The meeting, supported by The Wallace Foundation will support the professional development of up to 30 legislative staff. NCSL has secured funding for a 2012 Fall Seminar (topic TBD) by the Gates Foundation.

NCSL and ECS Annual Meetings –

NCSL – Legislative Summit, San Antonio, Texas August 8-11,2011. LESN teamed up for the third year with the NCSL Legislative Health Staff Network to sponsor a joint breakfast on school bullying. The breakfast attracted over 50 legislative education staff, health staff and others interested in the topic. Joseph Wright, The Child Health Advocacy Institute, Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C., was the keynote speaker. Cheryl Reinhart moderated the session. LESN also held a business meeting and Dutch treat dinner for staff in San Antonio. <http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23366>

In addition, NCSL secured funding for 10-15 staff to participate in the Improving Latino Completion pre-conference session at the NCSL Legislative Summit through a grant from USA Funds.

ECS – ECS National Forum in Denver, Colorado on July 6-8, 2011. LESN members in attendance at the ECS National Forum participated in a series of sessions designed to raise understanding of the policy issues surrounding early learning issues (prekindergarten to third grade). The first of the sessions, the Colorado story, involved speakers explaining the development of Colorado's early learning program. The second session featured Dr. Lilian Katz focusing on the importance of intellectual goals in the early years, looking at the goals in the context of academic skills and the role of play in early development. The final session was a roundtable discussion of the issues to be considered in submitting applications for the Race to the Top— Early Learning Challenge. At the evening Dutch treat dinner John Meyers (former NCSL staff

member) shared his memories of the creation of the LESN network 25 years ago. Paul Headlee chaired the NCSL business session.

<http://ecs.force.com/ecsforum/page?pageid=a1S70000007VxcEAE>

NCSL E-Learning Funds – Secured funding from NCSL for three webinars – one on [educator evaluation and compensation](#) (July 2011), one on educator effectiveness featuring the NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures Partnership Project on Educator Effectiveness Tool Kit as a launching point for a larger policy discussion on educator effectiveness (December 2011), and the third featuring critical findings from the 2010 McKinsey and Company report, “How the World’s Most Improved School Systems Keep Getting Better” to be scheduled in (December 2011). All webinars support professional development for members of LESN and the NCSL Education Standing Committee.

Member survey – ECS, with guidance from members of the steering committee have developed a survey to tailor LESN services and increase membership. The survey will be disseminated via the listserv in September.

Logo – ECS, with guidance from steering committee members, has created an LESN logo. It’s a long time coming and it looks great!

Webinars – In addition to the [educator evaluation and compensation](#) webinar in July 2011, LESN also sponsored a joint webinar with the NCSL Legislative Health Staff Network on [school bullying](#) in December 2010.

LESN Listserv – LESN is now archiving listserv responses online. The responses are available for public consumption. Discussion about whether this is appropriate is ongoing.

<http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?TabId=22119>

2011 LESN Recognition Award Recipient – The Steering Committee has selected Frances Ramirez-Maestas, Director, Legislative Education Study Committee, New Mexico, as this year's recipient. Frances was honored at the Salute to Legislative Staff session at the NCSL Legislative Summit and at the ECS National Forum.

<http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23234>

2011 NCSL Staff Chair Award Recipient – Cheryl Reinhart, Staff Attorney, Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research, Arkansas General Assembly, was recognized by the NCSL Staff Chair for her dedicated service to the Arkansas General Assembly and her active participation in NCSL. Cheryl was the 2010-11 Chair of the NCSL Education Standing Committee and NCSL LESN Co-Chair.

<http://www.ncsl.org/documents/educ/Cheryl.pdf>