

Improving learning through
professional development
opportunities for educators



INSTITUTE FOR Learning Partnership

The Institute for Learning Partnership is a unique and dynamic collaboration formally launched in 1998 to focus on educational excellence with special emphasis on learning. Its mission is to enhance professional development for educators and to better improve academic achievement for all learners. (Adopted January 2003)



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The Four Founding Goals

- Provide a Master's Degree in Applied Leadership for Teaching and Learning that integrates the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and focuses on leadership and reform.
- Initiate a competitive grant program to fund school-based, collaborative action research projects focusing on the documentation of effective practices that lead to quality teaching and learning.
- Develop a standards-based undergraduate teacher preparation program for students seeking certification in elementary and secondary education.
- Establish an Accomplished Educator Professional Development Certificate Program grounded in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and linked to district/school goals.

Additional Initiatives

- Facilitate and direct Phuture Phoenix — an award-winning University and community partnership that raises the level of awareness about the need for post-secondary education and targets low-income and first-generation students. It includes a field trip to college, assigned role models and potential scholarships.
- Help close the achievement gap: Through its grants to improve learning program and conference programming, the Institute supports research that is focused on closing the academic achievement gap.
- Provide National Board Candidate support: In collaboration with WEAC, the Institute sponsors and offers free Candidate Support Programs for educators going through the National Board Certification process.



Improving learning
through community
partnerships



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Master's Degree Program

Nearly 150 classroom educators and others in leadership positions in business and industry have graduated with a Master's Degree in Applied Leadership for Teaching and Learning from UW-Green Bay since 1998.

"As a student, the program pushed me to gain more knowledge in my craft. As a teacher, the program reinforced teaching strategies that I gained in my undergrad work."

"As a life-long Green Bay Packers fan and hopeful life-long teacher, I was able to integrate the two passions together in a master's project. Developing a curriculum-driven guide for the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame was an unforgettable experience. The students in my classroom shared in the excitement of my achievement. It reiterated that we are all life-long learners no matter your age or previous achievements."

— Kraig Western
Seventh-grade Social Studies teacher
Winneconne Middle School

Grants Program

The Institute's grants for improving teaching and learning has been supporting important projects across Northeast Wisconsin since 1999. Up to \$35,000 is available to support projects each fiscal year. Nearly \$700,000 has been awarded to educators in classrooms throughout CESA 7 and CESA 8 districts.

"The grant helped us overcome the funding obstacle that would have prevented implementation of our innovative, original ideas."

"The Institute grant gave us the opportunity to purchase \$5,000 worth of technology to use with our students. The project was designed to improve vocabulary and enhance reading. One of our district school board members applauded our efforts to seek alternative funding resources in these times of tight budgets."

— Lisa Andreini, Sarah Pautz and Ann Kralapp
Kindergarten Integration Team,
Glenbrook Elementary, Pulaski

Partnership

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Undergraduate Program

The undergraduate program experienced dramatic change in recent years. In addition to being standards and performance based, there is a strong emphasis on rigorous field-based experiences, including working directly with diverse learners. Components like the Phuture Phoenix program and opportunities such as studying abroad in Mexico help better prepare the teachers of tomorrow.

"My personal experiences have been exceptional. Education professors at UW-Green Bay arm future teachers with classroom management tips, valuable technology skills, and a multitude of research-based teaching strategies that prepare students for the field. Most importantly, the program provides priceless hands-on time with students from local schools."

– Amanda Rodenhauser
Education major,
UW-Green Bay

Professional Development Program

Eight participating districts recognize the PDC for salary compensation. The Accomplished Educator Professional Development Certificate Program has graduated nearly 225 teachers since 1999. Educators, including those with advanced degrees and pupil service professionals are choosing the PDC for its rigor. Here's what PDC graduates are saying about their experiences:

"I had many ideas and plans of what I could do to address the growing at-risk population at Green Bay West. The PDC Program helped me focus these ideas into one strong program, the Fresh Start Program. I truly believe that this program, developed with colleague Tonya Young, would not have taken off in such a successful and timely manner if not for the guidance and support of the PDC Program."

– Gregory Sawyer
Physics and Physical Science and
Forward Bound 11th-Grade Science teacher,
Green Bay West High School



Phuture Phoenix Program

The Phuture Phoenix program continues to inspire at-risk youths in Northeast Wisconsin to dream of a future that includes a college education. To make this happen, more than 1325 fifth-graders annually spend a day at UW-Green Bay campus to experience college life. About 250 UW-Green Bay students serve as role models, providing tutoring and mentoring support to the students annually.

"The Phuture Phoenix program has been shown to positively impact participating students' academic skill, knowledge, and confidence. The program is also representative of the support and service UW-Green Bay provides to schools in our area."

— Luke Valitchka
Principal,
Green Bay West High School

A vision for the future

Institute leaders are committed to:

- Funding research and publication of best practices based on action research in PK-12 classrooms, with preference given to closing the achievement gap.
- Sponsoring an expanded annual fall conference that provides national speakers on key issues, brings educators together to focus on current/critical education and reform, and responds to the professional needs of educators in Northeast Wisconsin.
- Supporting collaborative opportunities between PK-12 educators, community members and UW-Green Bay faculty in school settings to improve learning, narrow the achievement gap and to enhance the learning environment.



*Award-winning teacher
Tonya Young...*

"Greg Sawyer and I created the Fresh Start Program, a middle to high school bridge program for at-risk students, through the PDC Program. It is positively impacting the academics and attendance of ninth-grade students at Green Bay West.

My PDC journey has been a very challenging and very rewarding experience. The PDC Program has helped me to become a better, more collaborative and reflective practitioner. I am always looking for new ways to improve my teaching and I am excited for what the future holds."

— Tonya Young
Science teacher, Green Bay West,
State finalist, Presidential Award
for Excellence in Mathematics and
Science Teaching

Institute Board of Directors

Membership on the Institute's Board is balanced to represent Institute membership and provide expertise as an advisory body. Membership falls into two categories: those who are members by virtue of their position and those who are selected for the personal expertise they can offer the organization and/or as representatives of the Institute's constituent groups.



"I have found my tenure on the Institute Board to be immensely rewarding. The work of the Institute complements our efforts on the Green Bay Area School Board to improve professional learning and raise student achievement."

— Mike Blecha
Institute Board member,
Board member, Green Bay Area Public Schools



"Partners in Education and the Institute for Learning Partnership have been significant partners, especially for the promotion of education and the advancement of the teaching profession. The Institute is a valuable resource for educators in Northeast

Wisconsin. The connections and outcomes are impressive and the entire community is benefiting from the partnership."

— Nancy Schopf
Vice President-Education & Leadership,
Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

Institute Partners

The Partnership continues to expand as a dynamic entity.

The partners are:

- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- Northeast Wisconsin Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESA) 7 and 8
- Regional Board
- PK-12 educators and administrators
- Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC)
- Professional Development Academy of WEAC
- Northeast Wisconsin Technical Colleges
- Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Partners in Education
- Regional business and community leaders
- St. Norbert College and private PK-12 schools

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