



An Overview

Leaders in Education Advocacy and Reform Network (LEARN)

Mission



LEARN is an interdisciplinary organization started in 2011, that seeks to create a forum for **graduate students** interested in improving the quality of education in America's schools.

We aim to **foster dialogue** about pressing issues, increase knowledge of and access to **career opportunities**, and engage students in **service projects** in the field of education law and policy.

Two Branches, One Goal



Pro-bono and Advocacy

Career and Networking

Pro-bono and Advocacy



LEARN members invoke a unique, interdisciplinary skill set to serve students, parents, schools, and communities. Our pro-bono work addresses critical issues impacting the quality of education in schools.

- School Discipline Advocacy Service (SDAS)
- Special Education Advocacy Project
- Incubator Project: Research and Consulting Team

S.D.A.S



- Collaboration with the Education Law Center and Temple Law School students
- Client outreach with community groups, the Defender Association, Teach for America, the School District of Philadelphia
- Creation and maintenance of an intake system
- Over 40 Penn advocates have been trained
- Successful representation of School District and charter school students

Special Education Project



- Partnership with Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
- Volunteers trained in relevant areas of special education law.
- Pro bono work includes: research for special education cases, client intake, case management, creating community education materials and training, attending town hall meetings.



Education Law and Policy Research Project



- This project began in 2011 and took a brief hiatus due to loss of leadership
- Partnership with Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, the Education Law Center and the Legal Defense Fund
- Volunteers trained to prepare precise research education law and policy

Career and Networking



LEARN is unique in that it seeks to **increase knowledge** of and **facilitate access** to career opportunities for our members interested in education reform.



- Over 400 students and community members engaged
- Partnerships with over 40 education organizations

Career and Networking



- Guest Speaker Series
- Hot-topic debates
- Brown Bag Discussions
- Information Sessions
- Networking Receptions
- Online Career Pipeline Database
- Spring Conference
- Chapter Expansion



2013 Conference



- 60 speakers engaged (including Kahlil Byrd, Superintendent Hite, and many more)
- Almost 400 attendees
- New funding sources
- Well-crafted content on reform hot topics
- Inspired Cross-sector cooperation



Student Testimonial



Vikram Viswanathan
Wharton MBA '13
Former TFA Teacher

“The L.E.A.R.N. conference was the best conference I attended last year and was a great example of the cross-disciplinary experiences we should have more often at Penn. I enjoyed having the chance to hear from speakers ranging from state, district, and school leaders to entrepreneurs to legal and nonprofit advocates.”

National Expansion



LEARN's Co-Founders, Law alumni Erin Staab, Amy Feinman and Jamie Gullen, serve as advisors to the Penn branch of LEARN as they seek national partnerships.



Leaders in Education Advocacy and Reform Network

**What remaining questions
can we answer about our
work at Penn and beyond?**