An Overview

Leaders in Education Advocacy and Reform Network (LEARN)
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
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
- 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.
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.
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
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
“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.”

Vikram Viswanathan
Wharton MBA ‘13
Former TFA Teacher
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.
What remaining questions can we answer about our work at Penn and beyond?