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**Conference Presentation Offers a Positive Approach  
to Successful Common Core Implementation**

Implementation of the Common Core State Standards can be a time of stress, setbacks, and low morale. However, if professional developers, administrators, and teachers are empowered with five fundamental “big ideas” that support effective teaching, the process can be positive and, yes, even joyful at times. That was the encouraging message from Donna Wilson and Diane Dahl, who spoke at the Learning Forward 2013 Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Donna Wilson, Ph.D., is a leader in improving student learning by connecting the implications of mind, brain, and education research to educational practice. She is the lead developer of graduate programs with majors in Brain-Based Teaching offered through Nova Southeastern University’s Abraham S. Fischler School of Education. Dahl is a second-grade teacher in the Frisco Independent School District in the Dallas area and a 2011 graduate of the master’s degree program.

At Learning Forward 2013, Wilson and Dahl teamed up for an upbeat, practical presentation entitled “Toward Joyful Implementation of Common Core State Standards.” They shared advice on implementing the standards to an audience that included teachers, leaders of professional learning communities, teacher educators, and a director of a state department of education.

The presentation tied into the concepts that Wilson and coauthor Marcus Conyers, advanced in their book, *Five Big Ideas for Effective Teaching: Connecting Mind, Brain, and Education Research to Classroom Practice* (Teachers College Press, 2013). Wilson and Dahl explained how using the core concepts set out in that book and explored in the graduate programs can provide a conceptual framework for learning and teaching. They also tied implications from mind, brain, and education research to the practical challenges of implementing the Common Core State Standards with the goal of creating more thoughtful and effective classrooms.

Elsewhere at the Learning Forward conference, Wilson was on hand at the Teachers College Press booth to sign copies of *Five Big Ideas for Effective Teaching*.

Learning Forward's 2013 Annual Conference was designed to advance educator and student performance, with a recurring theme of the presentation of more effective strategies for implementing Common Core State Standards. The conference was also an opportunity to reconnect with longtime colleagues and friends and to forge new relationships.

For more information on Learning Forward and its 2013 conference, visit <http://learningforward.org>. For more information on the graduate degree programs with majors in Brain-Based Teaching, visit [www.brainsmart.org](http://www.brainsmart.org).