



LearnZillion

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2016

Contact:

[Heather Vega](mailto:heather@larsonpr.com)

heather@larsonpr.com

(925) 784-4608

LEARNZILLION CREATES NEW TEACHER-LED TEAM TO HELP SCHOOLS REACH STANDARDS

Dream Team of Coaches will help educators shape engaging classrooms

WASHINGTON – Today, [LearnZillion](#) announced the formation of the [Dream Team of Coaches](#) – a new community of master educators who will help teachers create the engaging classrooms necessary to meet the new, higher standards. Coaches will be trained to implement LearnZillion’s innovative professional development program, a blended model that uses the latest communication tools to support ongoing remote collaboration. Becoming coaches will give these teachers the chance to help peers nationwide transition their classrooms from ones where students passively receive instructions and complete coursework to environments that encourage collaboration, group interaction, exploratory questions and problem solving.

“Districts are increasingly realizing the need for more engaging classrooms. Too often the day-to-day demands of teachers do not allow them enough flexibility to create the environment in which they want to be teaching,” said [Eric Westendorf, CEO and co-founder of LearnZillion](#). “By working directly with district leaders, our coaches will help teachers across the country learn techniques to better facilitate classroom environments that naturally encourage students to engage in discussions, learn from trial and error, and ultimately have a deeper understanding of the content we’re teaching.”

The new Dream Team of Coaches will draw on LearnZillion’s open educational resources of K-8 math and 3-12 English language arts curriculum. Designed by the [Dream Team of Content Authors](#) – an experienced group of over 800 teachers representing district, charter and private schools in 42 states – this curriculum is currently being used by one-third of teachers across the country to implement the new, higher standards, according to a [recent study by Harvard University’s Center for Education Policy Research](#). An independent review of LearnZillion’s instructional materials by [Learning List](#) found it to be 100 percent aligned to the new standards. This content will assist coaches who support districts and teachers eager to update the classroom structure and teaching approach.

Launching this month, this first-of-its-kind community of coaches will receive training to become instructional leaders with expertise in both professional learning as well as the implementation of the new standards. Once trained, coaches will use the latest communication tools to offer online and in-person training that provides collaborative, ongoing support for school-based instructional leaders and teachers – gradually enabling them to shift their practice to be more interactive with their students.

“Creating interactive classrooms takes collaboration – working together to use the best tools to better engage and support students. Working with LearnZillion, we have trained a team of Delaware teacher leaders – giving these individuals the opportunity to advance their career without leaving teaching,” said [Michael Watson, chief academic officer for the Delaware Department of Education](#). “By giving our high-quality educators the ability to stay in the classroom while also helping others grow their practice, we are

starting to see evidence that these great teachers are getting better and improving student outcomes faster for our 136,000 public school students.”

LearnZillion will select coaches based on their teaching experience and demonstrated leadership. For these future coaches, this is not only a career-building opportunity to impact learning across the nation, but also one that offers flexibility to remain teaching or even be active in education after retiring. Those selected will begin training in May.

To apply to be part of the Dream Team of Coaches, or to learn how the coaches can help your school or district, visit www.LearnZillion.com.

About LearnZillion:

LearnZillion is the next generation curriculum and professional development solution. LearnZillion provides open, digital math and English language arts curricula along with professional development that combines the expertise of teachers with the power of technology to support teachers in providing exemplary instruction. Founded in 2011 after winning a [Next Generation Learning Challenges](#) grant, funded by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) and the [William & Flora Hewlett Foundation](#), LearnZillion was borne from curriculum and practice developed during founder Eric Westendorf’s tenure as the principal at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. To learn more about LearnZillion, visit www.LearnZillion.com.

###