



# *2008 Fall Conference & Academy*



September 17-19, 2008

Hyatt Regency  
Savannah, Georgia

It is the purpose of the Georgia Staff Development Council (GSDC) to provide support ensuring that every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so that every student achieves. GSDC supports this purpose through a data informed process. Schools across the state of Georgia are participating in the National Staff Development Council's Standard Assessment Inventory (SAI) to determine school strengths in context, process, and content practice. In Georgia, the SAI results have led GSDC members to learn more about professional learning communities and professional learning evaluation.

The 2009 GSDC Fall Conference & Academy will be held in Savannah on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> followed by the first session of the 2008-09 Academy on September 19<sup>th</sup>. While combined, the conference and Academy require separate registrations.

The conference theme is "From Professional Development to Professional Learning - Experience The Power!" featuring Lois Brown Easton.

The "technology" of professional development is changing. Training and professional development are necessary for some things (think CPR); but for changes to occur in this increasingly complex work of education, educators need to engage in professional learning. As they learn more from research and practice about how students learn, they also come to understand more about how they need to learn. At this 2-day conference, participants will explore the differences between professional development and professional learning. They will understand how professional learning fits with the current trend towards PLCs. They will experience several powerful designs themselves – deeply enough that they will be able to facilitate these designs with the educators with whom they work. They will know about other professional learning designs that they can use. They will evaluate their current professional development programs according to criteria for context, process, and content, focusing on strategies that are particularly important to them as educators. Using these tools, they will create a plan to remodel current professional learning approaches so that they more closely align with students' learning needs, meet National Staff Development Council's standards for staff development, and model the type of learning educators want their students to experience.

As a result of this conference, participants will:

- Understand how the work they do benefits from a professional learning approach;
- Have a deep understanding about the differences between professional development and professional learning;
- Know the 12 qualities of professional learning;
- Know the relationship between professional learning and PLCs;
- Match the NSDC standards to the professional learning designs they have experienced;
- Be able to use several tools for selecting appropriate professional learning strategies; and
- Be able to facilitate at least three powerful designs with the people with whom they work.

The First Session of the GSDC 2008-09 Academy will be held September 19th. If you register for both the conference and an Academy session, your conference registration will be discounted \$25. If you use a credit card, the database manager will credit back \$25; if you use a PO, a corrected invoice showing the \$25 discount will be sent to you for processing with your finance office.

The Academy session *Providing Focused and Sustained Professional Development* is a goal for all professional learners. Professional development means different things to different people. To some, it means one-stop workshops and in-services. In this Academy session, participants will learn of much richer ways to enhance professional growth that make a difference in student achievement. Participants will also learn to identify, develop, nurture, and monitor a variety of different professional development experiences that are tied to school improvement.

The Academy session *Using Data to Lead Change* will help participants to think about data beyond a cursory look at standardized test scores. Participants will be introduced to basic concepts, complete activities designed to reinforce those concepts, and then apply them in classroom and homework assignments.

The Academy session *Building and Leading Effective Teams* addresses the fact that no school leader succeeds alone. For lasting improvement, school leaders must build and lead highly effective teams. Why have teams? What separates effective teams from those that are just taking up space? How do you get a team off to a good start? What tools, techniques, and approaches can leaders use to strengthen team effectiveness? How can team meetings be more efficient? These are questions that are answered for participants in this session.

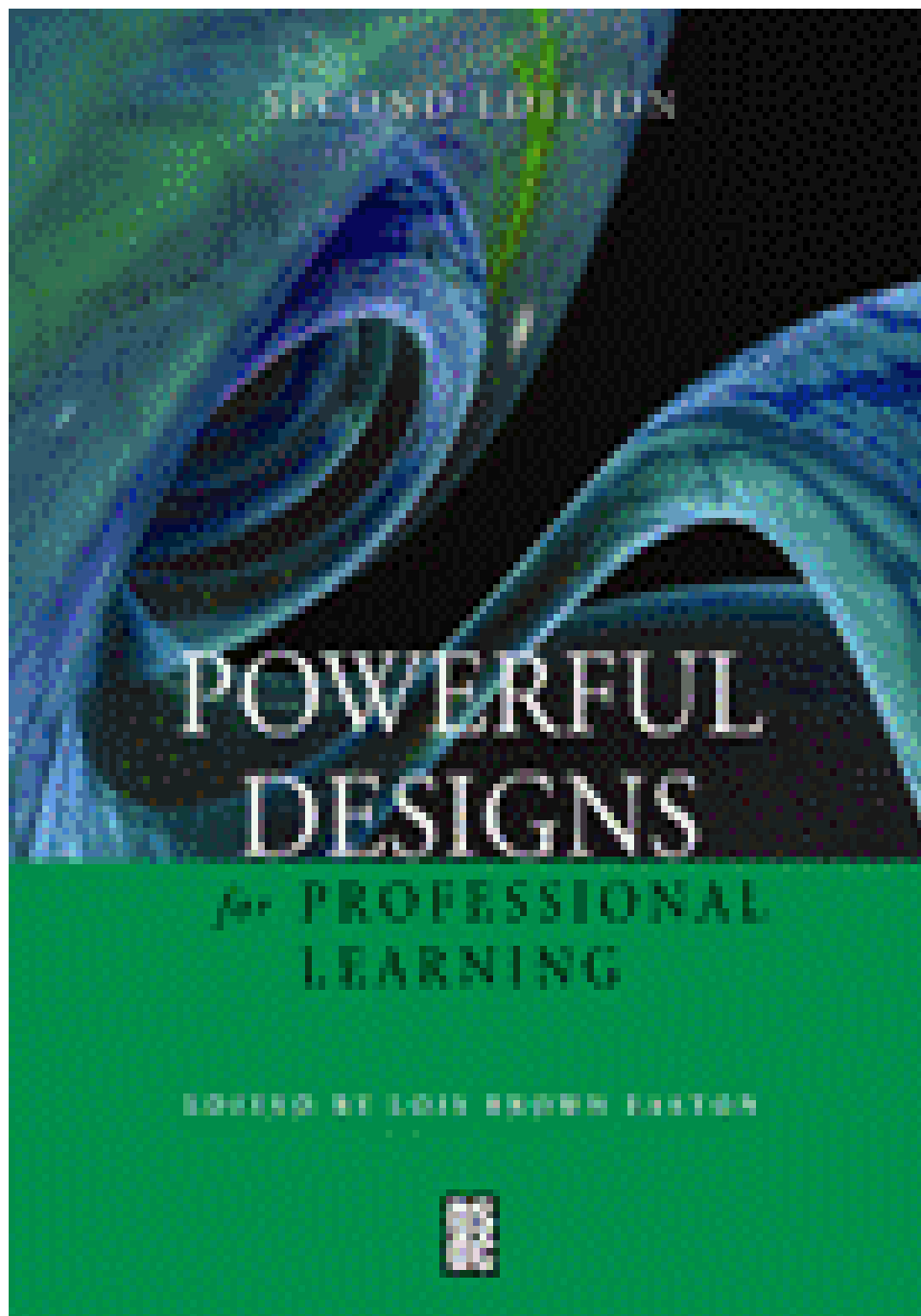
#### The Hyatt Regency Savannah

Online room reservations are just a click away at the Hyatt Regency Savannah, 2 W. Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia, 31401; Tel: 912-238-1234 / Fax: 912-944- 3678!

Single/Double Occupancy @	\$169	/night
Triple Occupancy @	\$194	/night
Quadruple Occupancy @	\$219	/night
Riverview Room @	\$244	/night
Balcony Riverview @	\$269	/night
Junior Suite @	\$399	/night

Reservations by telephone: 800-233-1234.

Reservations online at <http://savannah.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>, follow the prompts, and in the "Group/Corporate#" block use the grouping code G-GASD. The cutoff date for the special GSDC room rates is Friday, August 15, 2008



Edited by featured conference presenter Lois Brown Easton, this book is an expanded second edition of the popular *Powerful Designs for Professional Learning* introducing new chapters on classroom walk-throughs, differentiated coaching, dialogue, and video. The book also includes a CD-ROM with more than 270 pages of handouts in PDF format. And no one can beat the price—\$48.00!

If you registered and did not order the book and want the book added to your registration, email the administrative office at [TLCATLANTA@UREACH.COM](mailto:TLCATLANTA@UREACH.COM) and request it be added to your registration.