

Dr. Rob Larson is the director of strategic relations at Education Northwest. His key responsibilities are to advance the mission and strategic direction of the organization through government and partner relations.

Larson has extensive experience in directing large-scale improvement networks in public education. As the founding director of the Oregon Leadership Network (OLN), he leads a statewide alliance that is committed to advancing educational equity through educational leadership development. The OLN serves numerous professional associations, education agencies and organizations, higher education institutions, and more than 20 school districts, representing 46 percent of the overall student population and 50 percent of the students of color and English language learners in the state.

In his role at the OLN, Larson has served as the lead for the Harvard Executive Leadership Program in Oregon, supported by The Wallace Foundation's Educational Leadership Network. He also led a research team in the creation of the Leadership for Equity Assessment & Development (LEAD) Tool, which helps enhance schools' and districts' equitable practices.

Larson's love of education policy and practice spans educational leadership development and science education. As co-author of *Design Technology: Children's Engineering*, an internationally distributed work on integrative science teaching and learning, Larson worked with schools and districts across the nation to support design and engineering education based on British primary school methodology. He was also the founding co-director of the National Audubon Society's Youth Ecology Program, which encouraged U.S. middle school students to examine biodiversity, ornithology, and ecology.

Larson has received distinguished service awards from Oregon's superintendent of public instruction, the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, the Oregon Association of Latino Administrators, and the Education Northwest board of directors. Prior to coming to Education Northwest, Larson served as a senior policy aide to Oregon's chief state school officer, and he has worked at many schools and districts in Oregon. Larson earned a Master of Science from Oregon State University and a doctorate in educational leadership from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon.