

# Transcript

## Jason Flom

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### Revamped legislative institute enables education leaders to make a new impact on Capitol Hill

#### Jason Flom

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Hi, my name is Jason Flom. I'm a 5th grade teacher in Tallahassee, Fla. I attended LILA in 2011. The highlight for me was the chance to come together with so many extraordinary educators and have the chance to advocate with them on behalf of districts, schools, and most important students.

The innovative part of the conference, to me at least, was the people that ASCD gathered to help educate us about the legislative process and some of the issues that were at play. It included Arne Duncan, Senator Jack Reed, E. J. Dionne of the *Washington Post*, and Alyson Klein of *Ed Week*. It was really a star-studded cast of well-informed folks, even if we don't agree with them all.

In terms of professional development, I learned a lot about the value of relationships when it comes to advocacy work. Rather than just going and testifying to Senate or meeting with a representative once or twice, building on those relationships is a year-round process. And I think that's what I'm bringing back to my community. Being here in Tallahassee, we have a lot of opportunities to meet the politicians, and the chance to build relationships is what I've really been focusing on.

So thank you so much, and I look forward to seeing you at LILA next year.

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