As quickly as technology evolves, we are charged with the responsibility of facilitating this evolution for our students. We entrust instructional technologists, coaches, and media coordinators with this responsibility, but it can sometimes seem impossible without networking and support. To better meet the needs of these change agents we rely on, the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation has developed the Digital Leaders Coaches Network (DLCN). This year two cohorts will form across the state for professional learning beginning Oct. 27, 2016 in Raleigh and November 14, 2016 in Asheville.

We are pleased to announce that Thomas Martin was selected for this unique opportunity, and will join 194 other digital learning leaders from across North Carolina for the next eight months. Along with his new network of peers, Thomas Martin will receive ongoing, job-embedded professional learning opportunities to build his capacity in digital and personalized learning. He will also acquire strategies and knowledge related to best practices in leadership and supporting stakeholders at Farmer Elementary School and Randolph County School System.

This blended learning experience, built on the North Carolina Media Coordinator, Instructional Technology Facilitator & Coaching Evaluation Instruments, will help participants grow as educators, coaches and leaders while assisting them in building strong professional learning networks. The core components of Leadership and Culture, Effective Coaching, Content and Curriculum, Sustainability and Evaluation, and Being a Connected Educator are woven throughout all components of the DLCN experience.

Development supported by Project Tomorrow and with continuing support and partnership from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and the North Carolina Technology in Education Society (NCTIES), the DLCN was developed to assist schools and districts in the process of digital learning transitions, and to cultivate local capacity by providing support to those in coaching roles, as coaches are essential to leading and supporting student-centered digital learning and teaching.