

MINING LINKEDIN FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

One-Line Diagram of a Professional Learning Network

DRAWN BY: Devon Stewart

PLATFORM: LinkedIn

PROGRAM: TECH6363 – Instructional Technology

🔗 FULL BLOG POST : <https://constructiontechlearn.blog/2026/08/23/mining-linkedin-for-professional-learning-a-look-at-my-own-network/>

01

PLATFORM OVERVIEW

LinkedIn functions as a professional microblogging platform: short, frequent posts, articles, and reposts circulate through a network built on job history, endorsements, and shared professional interest rather than personal relationships. For an instructional technology professional, this makes it the highest-signal platform for locating practitioners, researchers, and organizations actively publishing on learning design, workplace training, and L&D strategy (Carpenter & Krutka, 2015).

02

SEARCH METHODS USED

DISCOVERY CHANNELS

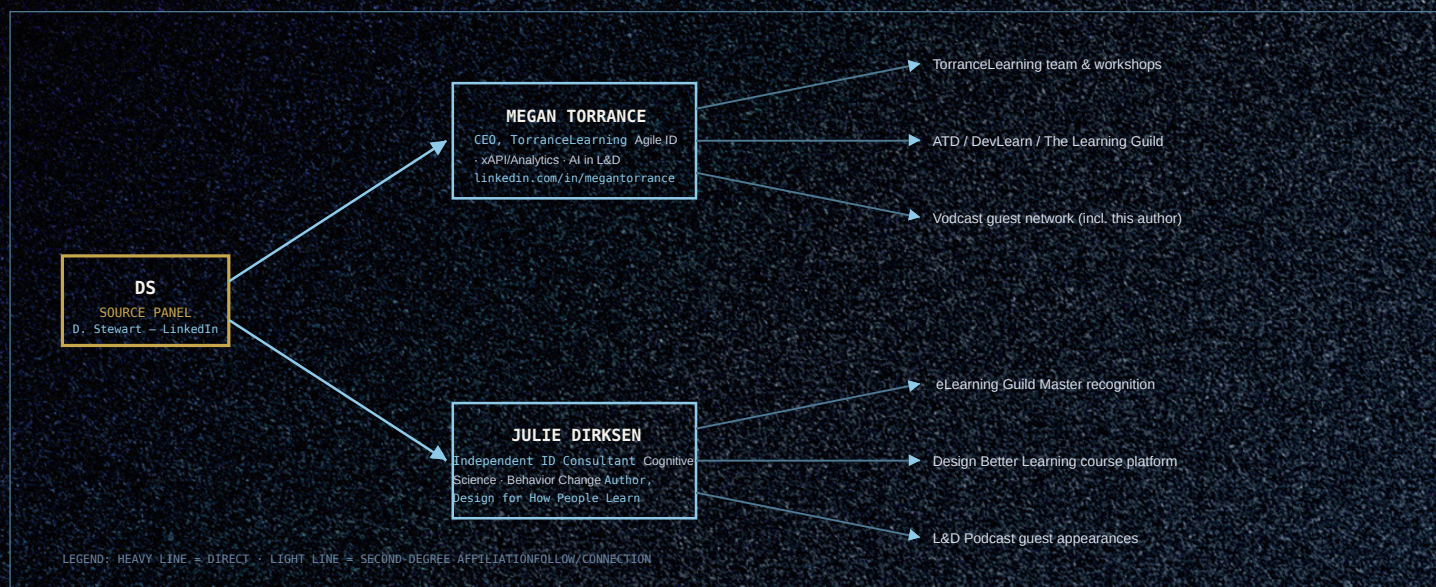
- 🔍 Hashtag search — #InstructionalDesign, #LearningAndDevelopment, #WorkplaceLearning
- 👤 Direct profile search — named practitioners (Torrance, Dirksen)
- 🏢 Company/organization pages — TorranceLearning, ATD, The Learning Guild
- 🔄 "Who reposted / who follows" — mapping second-degree connections

NETWORK SIGNAL READING

- 🗣️ Comment quality over comment count — substantive replies weighted higher
- 🔄 Repost chains — who amplifies whom, and how far a post travels
- ★ Cross-platform corroboration — book credits, conference bios, podcast guest lists
- 🕒 Posting cadence — one-off virality vs. sustained, dated expertise

03

NETWORK ONE-LINE DIAGRAM



04

CREDIBILITY DISCERNMENT — THE SIFT METHOD (Caulfield, 2019)

S

STOP

Pause before trusting or sharing a post. Notice if a headline or claim is engineered for an emotional reaction.

Applied: neither expert's content relies on alarmist framing or engagement bait.

I

INVESTIGATE

Check the source's credentials and track record before evaluating the claim itself.

Applied: verified via published books, firm history, and eLearning Guild Master recognition.

F

FIND BETTER COVERAGE

Cross-reference the claim against other recognized voices in the same field.

Applied: cross-checked against ATD, DevLearn, and peer practitioner citations.

T

TRACE

Follow a claim or statistic back to its original context rather than trusting a repost.

Applied: both experts cite underlying research (xAPI data, cognitive science) rather than assert.

REFERENCES

- Carpenter, J., & Krutka, D. (2015). Engagement through microblogging: Educator professional development via Twitter. *Professional Development in Education*, 41(4), 707-728. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19415257.2014.939294>
- Caulfield, M. (2019, June 19). *SIFT (The Four Moves)*. Hapgood. <https://hapgood.us/2019/06/19/sift-the-four-moves/>